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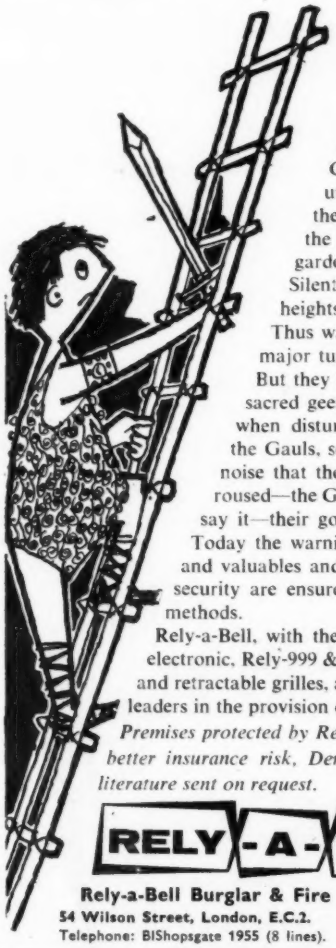
the geese that gave the game away



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COVER PICTURE: *Scotland Yard's Information Room, the centre of a telecommunications network covering an area of 736 square miles and a population of more than 8,000,000. Inspector Dyer of the Essex Police writes on radio control in this issue.*

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Post Office Security

NEWS of the G.P.O's plans to improve its system of alarms at counters is welcome so far as it goes. Details given by Mr. Marples in reply to questions in the Commons are reported in this issue. Priority in installing a more convenient form of alarm is being accorded to the more precarious offices in London, but presumably the device will be extended throughout the country. This information in itself will not however do much to allay public anxiety about the adequacy of the Post Office's general security arrangements. The feeling has been growing that the criminal can outwit this Department of State with a little too much ease. Reports were given in the April *Gazette* of mail bags stolen from express trains without the theft being immediately discovered, and of a daring attack at Marylebone on a mail van from which some £7,000 were taken. The March issue contained details of an £11,000 snatch from a postman at Addlescombe and of £3,000 taken from a van at Brixton. These are major items which do not take into account the numerous smaller incidents affecting post offices. Nor can the extent of police success in apprehending the thieves or of recovering the money minimise the seriousness of the events themselves. They lend a different perspective to the total cash lost specifically from post offices as given by the Postmaster-General in his assurance that losses have been quite low.

Of course readers of the *Gazette* from their own security experience will tend to have sympathy for the Post Office, despite the rather cutting remarks made by retired policemen in the Press and on the B.B.C. about its security standards. It handles extremely large sums each year through a vast range of offices. It is responsible for safeguarding millions of postal packets. And as the standard of living rises in the country, so its burdens daily increase. It may be thought that to expect the Post Office to adapt itself overnight and on a national scale to the present incidence of criminal threats is expecting a lot.

Nevertheless, by any objective assessment, there is clearly considerable scope for raising the level of Post Office security. Where there can be proper criticism is in the G.P.O's slowness in reacting to dangers which have been increasingly evident for many months, if not years. Indeed, the surprising thing is not the actual number of raids and thefts but that there are not more of them. Yet a Government Department can have few problems of manpower or of expense. It can only be concluded that steps which ought to have been taken months ago have either not been recommended or have been obstructed. The sub-postmasters at their annual conference supplied evidence, as given within, of a lack of sympathy for their own attempts to secure their offices. It is absurd, for example, that no tax relief can be obtained for the keeping of guard dogs. Are they not as essential as the company director's lunch for the maintenance of business interests? Similarly, there now exists a whole range of specialist firms capable of offering and fitting suitable security systems to offices and transport. It must seem strange that their appliances have not been put to greater effect.

The danger to the Post Office lies in the encouragement given to other possible raiders by the apparent success of previous attempts. The larger an organisation becomes, the greater is the opportunity for theft—unless precautions are implemented early and in advance of growth. But the authorities would be unwise to expect that they will gain a breathing space in the near future. The crime wave shows so far no sign of declining. As it proceeds so the G.P.O. will have to make still more strenuous steps to gain control.

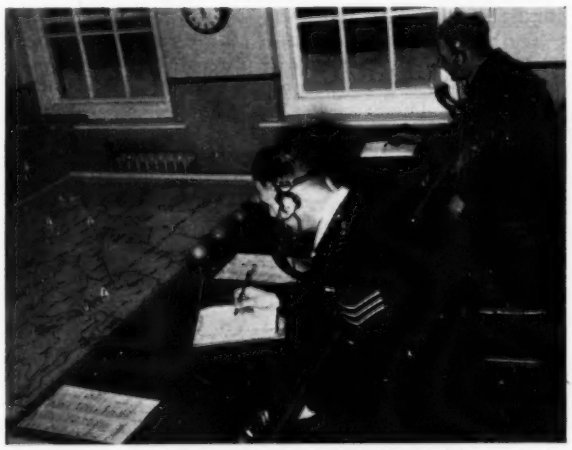
Consultations are naturally going on with the police and Mr. Marples has indicated in the Commons (Parliamentary Report within) his determination to make more improvements. It is unfortunate, however, that he seems unable to offer the public more information. He believes the giving of particular proposals would be "stupid". Why? The public has no wish to be told that mail vans on a certain express are now to be fitted with a certain device which will operate when a certain action is taken. But it does possess a right to know what general measures are in hand. The difficulty with the "sealed lips" policy is that the public will continue to lose confidence if the new precautions of which it is to be told nothing fail to stop hauls in the future of which it will learn a good deal. Police forces throughout the country in the struggle against crime are now beginning to rely on establishing a more lively public co-operation. This is a development of which, it seems, the G.P.O. is still unaware. It could pick up some valuable advice by consulting a good crime prevention department.

THE CONTROL OF RADIO VEHICLES

By Inspector Charles E. Dyer

The use of radio intercommunication is growing steadily in industrial security. Based on successful development by the police, modern systems are of particular value to firms and banks which need to maintain contact with distant sites or vehicles. In this article the Communications Officer of Essex County Police offers advice on the efficient operation of a radio communications centre.

Isolation of the radio control is desirable for efficient operation.



This picture illustrates the use of conical counters on the plotting table. Note also the position of the operators with their head harness equipment.

THE value of operating radio equipped motor vehicles for the transport of vulnerable or high value property need not be stressed in this journal. It will be obvious that the ability to maintain constant two-way communication with the crews of motor vehicles engaged upon such work not only increases the level of security but inspires greater confidence amongst members of the crews and can—if the aerial is erected conspicuously—act as a deterrent to would-be attackers.

One may forecast, therefore, that in the years ahead more operators of commercial and industrial transport will consider the introduction, where it is suitable, of a mobile radio scheme. As a result, security officers will be faced with the problems of operating a control system and the need to staff and organise an efficient control centre. Some of the following pointers from the writer's experience might prove of value in this respect.

Control Centre Structure and Equipment

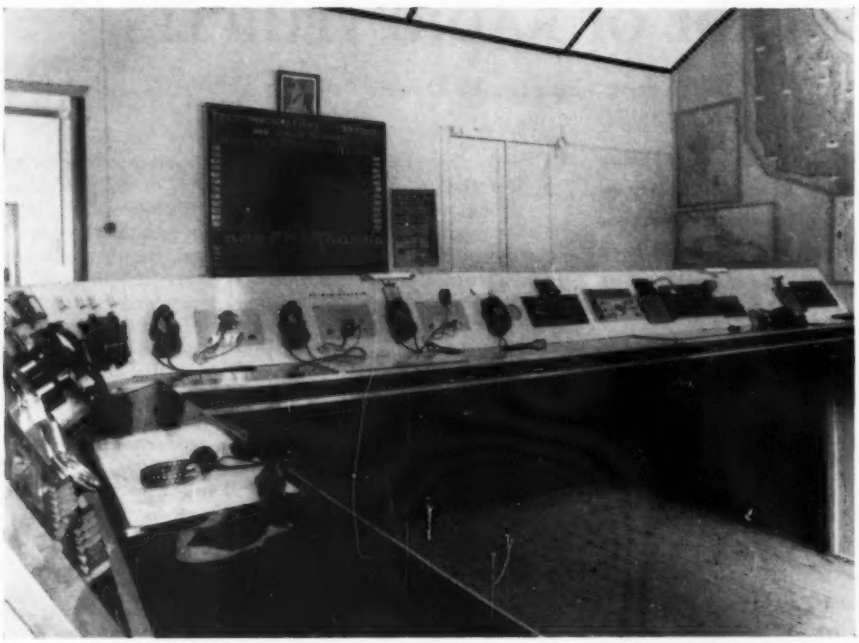
It may be presumed that a necessary requirement in the communications centre will be a suitable telephone installation and it is essential to ensure that there is efficient co-relation of the work of the telephonists and the radio control operator. If a number of incoming lines—whether extensions from the main switchboard or direct exchange lines—terminate in the centre, it is important that messages can be passed rapidly to the radio operator. It is in this respect that difficulties sometimes arise.

One can visit centres where there is a constant babel of sound when the staff are busily engaged. A battle continues between the control workers to make themselves heard. Too often on the losing side of this situation is the crewman on a radio mobile trying hard to read signals with a background of slamming doors, shouts, telephone bells and other extraneous noises. Such conditions should not, of course, be permitted.

Whilst it may be the case that the structural design of the communications centre makes it difficult to eliminate noise, it is not often that something cannot be done to improve matters. If possible, some isolation of the radio control should be attempted. This may be achieved by housing the control in a room adjacent to the telephonists —close proximity is, of course, essential, particularly during an emergency. Failing this, a soundproof enclosure around the radio control can be constructed. Incidentally, the latter suggestion has an additional advantage if a ' studio ' is provided with plate glass or double-glazed windows. When necessary, the controller can remain beside the radio operator to direct operations without losing visual contact with the telephone staff.

Multiple Operation

A very suitable telephone installation for control purposes is a system of multiple operating positions for use with head-harness equipment. Any number of incoming lines can be multipled to as many positions as required; consequently, telephonists can serve all incoming lines without leaving their chairs. In addition, head-harness equipment leaves both hands free to



Telecommunications have been highly developed by the Barbados police. This is their control room with, centre, Simplex and Duplex radio telephones. The 999 switchboard is on the left.

handle files or index cards and it is only necessary to remove the jack-plug when leaving the position.

Some description may be useful of this multiple system. All incoming telephone lines to the control centre are ' teed-off ' to terminate upon keys fitted to each multipled position. Each key can be thrown two ways—answer and hold. Visual signalling (lamp indicators) can be provided by means of a rectified relay circuit. The second coil of each relay provides a locking circuit which enables continuous signalling until the call is answered. Placing the key in the answer position disconnects the relay. When thrown to ' hold', a holding condition prevents the circuit being broken down whilst another call key is used or the operator ' jacks-out ' of his multipled position. Another possible facility is the introduction of busy light indicators on each key. This facility can be permitted by an auxiliary set of springs on each key.

One possible snag in relation to the introduction of " multiple operating " arises from the fact that this type of installation is not to standard Post Office specification. Consequently there may be delay in obtaining the necessary equipment. On the other hand, if expense is not an objection, suitable equipment is available from commercial telephone concerns.

Plotting Methods

For the efficient operation and control of radio equipped vehicles some form of plotting becomes essential in the control centre. In a small concern with no more than four of five vehicles operating at any one time the simplest form of indicator will suffice. In larger concerns, however, a more ambitious plotting method becomes necessary. This can vary from a table marked with numbered squares to the most intricate system of electrical indicators.

In this connection, it is sometimes tempting when designing a communications centre to introduce a plotting method which is more spectacular than necessary. Complicated systems of electric lights and expensive illuminated maps may be impressive, but do they produce any greater efficiency than a simple outline painted upon a table? It does happen than the more involved systems result in more work being thrown upon the control staff. The fact should never be overlooked that the true purpose of plotting is to *facilitate* the work of the staff—not to impress visitors.

Those operators who decide to use the more orthodox plotting methods will have need to provide suitable counters and markers to indicate the disposition or availability of mobiles. In some places magnetic counters are used upon a map backed with ferrous metal but in a very busy centre this proves to be a very slow method. Experience teaches that one can move or ' rake ' a gravity held counter twice as quickly as one can handle the magnetic type.

The writer has found that a plastic counter designed in the form of a pyramid with three triangular faces—each revealing the call-sign to a different aspect—is very satisfactory. The usual flat pattern counter necessitates closer observation than the pyramid form, which can be identified from any angle.

Markers can be used to indicate the numerous purposes for which radio mobiles are used or to show whether the crews are ' off watch ' at premises etc. It is most important, however, to keep the number of forms of marker down to a minimum in order to avoid complication.

Ensuring Radio Security

In these days when V.H.F. radio receivers are easily available a control operator must be ever conscious of the fact that messages passing out to a mobile fleet are liable to interception by unauthorised listeners.

It would be out of place in this article to go into any detail upon possible coding schemes and other measures to overcome such insecurity but a simple basic means can be mentioned. One important aspect of security—

the location of motor vehicles—can be gained by the substitution of numbers for place names, particularly where a regular route is followed. This number location plan has an additional advantage, inasmuch that it also permits a very rapid check of the mobile fleet to be made for plotting purposes. When the mobile stations are called in call-sign order it is far quicker for an operator to pass, for example, " 48 to 49 " than to say " On the Highton Road between Northtown and Southtown."

It will be found by this method that it is possible to obtain a location check from 20 to 30 mobiles—with experienced operators—in a third of the time that would be taken by passing geographical locations.

Two Operation Systems

The operational procedure to be adopted upon a radio scheme depends to a great extent upon the type of installation provided and the radio frequencies allocated by the Post Office. Broadly speaking, however, there are two principal operational methods—simplex and duplex.

When the transmission and reception of radio signals on a channel is confined to a single frequency, the simplex method must, of necessity, be adopted. On a single frequency scheme, for technical reasons it is not possible to receive signals at the control station whilst a transmission to mobile units is being effected. To avoid confusion, therefore, it is essential that strict observance of the procedural word " over " be observed. In most cases, simplex operating upon a single frequency scheme will be unsuitable for security control purposes as it will not permit the reception of urgent messages from a mobile whilst the main control station is on the air.

Duplex working is the operational procedure which lends itself most suitably to security control. For this purpose two frequencies need to be allocated (one for transmission, another for reception). On duplex it is possible for the main receiver at control to be ' alive ' during transmissions and, therefore, enables any mobile operator to cut in with an urgent message whenever necessary. The duplex method will, of course, permit two-way conversation between control and a mobile in much the same fashion as the normal land-line telephone —a very useful facility. On the other hand a very rigid discipline of operational procedure must be in existence, particularly if a large number of mobile units is operated upon the scheme.

A mobile wireless patrol at the Port of London.

Choice of Staff

The employment of suitable staff to act as radio control operators is a factor which needs careful consideration. There are two principal attributes demanded for this work—clarity of voice and the ability to remain cool under high-pressure or emergency conditions.

It may be asked—where can such workers be obtained? Ideal individuals, of course, for this purpose, are frequently available among ex-service men—particularly those who have been engaged upon radio control work in the services. Another possible field of recruitment lies among ex-members of the Police, Ambulance, and Fire Brigade Control Staffs. But previous experience is not in itself essential. The main aim must be to choose operators carefully when systems are begun, and provided organisation and procedures are efficiently determined, personnel can rapidly develop the necessary qualifications and skill.

CRIME WAVE STILL RISING AGAINST PRECEDENT

Home Office " Worry "

SIR CHARLES CUNNINGHAM, Permanent Under-Secretary, Home Office, referring to the present crime situation, said at Southport, on 24th April: " It is a striking but consistent feature of our criminal statistics over the years that we have a series of peaks followed by a series of troughs.

" The worrying thing about the present situation is that the curve which we might now have expected to be turning downwards is still going up."

The situation disclosed by the recent White Paper on " Penal practice in a changing society " was not improving.

" One encouraging feature " he said, " was that the degree of increase was less among children than it was among young adults. It may, therefore, be that the special problems of the wartime generation are not being perpetuated in the post-war generation. But it is too soon to reach any firm conclusion."

The deep-seated malaise from which society was suffering required a different approach. Sir Charles advocated concentrating on treating the underlying causes of delinquency.

The paradox was that while social conditions and economic well-being had never been better, crime had rarely been more widespread.

Sir Charles was addressing the annual conference of the National Association of Probation Officers.

Appointments

Birmingham's Deputy Chief

Mr. W. D. Capper, an Assistant Chief Constable of Birmingham since 1958, has been appointed Deputy Chief Constable, in succession to Mr. J. A. McKay, now Chief Constable of Manchester.

Born at Upton Magna, near Shrewsbury, Mr. Capper was a chief superintendent in the Metropolitan Police before coming to Birmingham. He was educated at Birmingham University, where he captained the athletics team. He was University 100 yards and 220 yards champion in 1933-34.

Inspectors' Promotion

Chief Inspector Alexander Collin of the Berwick, Roxburgh and Selkirk Constabulary has been appointed Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable.

In the same force Inspector George Matheson has been promoted Chief Inspector in charge of administration at the Jedburgh headquarters. Sergeant David Cowan becomes Inspector in the Duns Sub-division.

Starting Own Business

Div. Officer S. Rackliff, on retirement from Middlesex Fire Brigade after 30 years service, has now formed his own fire protection business at Beechway, Stonebridge. He received the Queen's Fire Service Medal in last year's New Year's Honours List.

Dewsbury's New Chief

Superintendent F. G. Hulme, aged 42, has been selected, subject to Home Office approval, to be the next Chief Constable of Dewsbury. He is at present the Deputy Chief. Superintendent Hulme moved to the Dewsbury force five years ago from Oldham where he was Inspector. His salary will be £1,595 p.a. rising to £1,790.

From Durham

Chief Superintendent John Douglas Dagg, aged 42, of the Durham Constabulary, has been appointed Assistant Chief Constable of Cumberland and Westmorland.

Chief Supt. Dagg joined the Durham Constabulary in 1936 and reached his present rank last year. From 1950 to 1953 he was Commandant of the Durham Constabulary Training School. Since 1956 he has been Director of Studies on police procedure at the police college at Ryton.

CRICKETERS ENTER SECURITY TRADE

W. J. Edrich and Godfrey Evans, the England Test cricketers, have become business associates in a new company, the B.E.E. Marketing Service, Ltd., with Mr. Jack Belton. One venture is the marketing of a smoke alarm bag for cash transport (see Technical Information).

Mr. Edrich and Mr. Evans demonstrated the device at Amwell House, Hoddesdon, Herts., on 14th May to representatives from the police, banks, insurance companies, departmental stores, and the Press.

Our picture shows Mr. Evans acting as thief outside Lloyds Bank with Mr. Edrich in the background.

Bank of England Alarm

A rehearsal of alarm precautions and measures at the Bank of England took place on 6th May when an alarm button was accidentally pressed. Bells sounded, the doors were shut and locked, and no one was allowed to enter or leave. Then the alarm was discovered to be false.

An official said later that it is fairly easy for the buttons to be accidentally pressed. "They are placed all over the building and it has been known for someone to hit one with his elbow without knowing it."

Holiday Security Leaflet

A very useful leaflet is being distributed to householders by Middlesbrough Police to encourage crime prevention during the holiday season. It could be also adapted to advantage for industrial companies.

The leaflet is in the form of a personal memorandum containing 12 items, for example, "I have locked all windows and doors of the house and garage," and "I have replaced all faulty door locks and window catches." The final one adds a humorous touch: "I have prayed that my money will last out."

The leaflet has been designed by the Force's Crime Prevention Department. It should gain a good response.

POLICE CHIEF'S GUIDANCE FOR BANKS

Countering Apathy

Lt.-Col. W. Jones Williams, O.B.E., Chief Constable Gwynedd Constabulary which covers the counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon and Merioneth, recently addressed members of the Institute of Bankers at Llandudno and Caernarvon on the subject of "Crime Prevention", with particular application to the security of Banks. We reproduce below the first part of his paper. Further extracts will follow in our next issue.

IT is often said that the British people are a peace-loving nation. This being so, the very thought of war, violence or breaches of the Queen's Peace are subjects that the respectable citizens of this country try not to think of, but avoid.

Although subconsciously aware of the commission of crimes of violence, bank robberies, thefts and such like, it does not often cross our minds that any one of us could be the victim of such crimes. We are prone to dwell in a " false paradise ", our only fortification being the thought that " this will never happen to me ".

In consequence it is to be feared that there is a general lack of interest in crime prevention in the country, and in particular amongst some members of the banking profession in regard to the safety of their premises and the methods adopted to convey money in and out of banks.

Reliance on " Strong " Rooms

Except for the occasional police enquiry in respect of dishonoured cheques or stolen bank notes, the commission of crime to most bank employees is something that they read about in the daily press.

For years most bankers have transacted their business without giving a thought to the type of criminal who considers robbing a bank to be the quickest way of acquiring a worth-while sum of ready cash. Security in many branches very often means nothing beyond a strong-room, which in some instances comprises a very strong steel door and substantial surrounding walls and a flimsy lath-and-plaster ceiling, and an outside alarm bell which is often inaudible in the noises of the modern busy street.

The Mobile Crime Gangs

It is a great failing to believe that bank robberies and attacks upon bank clerks only occur in the larger towns and that such crimes will never occur in a quiet area such as this.

In this age of increased mobility the whole concept of the commission of crime, police measures to prevent the commission of crime, and detection methods, have undergone a complete transformation. Whereas some years ago the commission of crime was, in the main, of a local character, nowadays with the advent of the fast motor vehicle, gangs of criminals travel widely throughout the country, fully equipped and often armed, always on the alert for a way to come by easy money.

Today, North Wales is only two or three hours journey from some of the larger English cities; indeed within recent months certain criminals who had travelled to this police district from nearby English towns have been caught, some of them armed and in many cases fully equipped with housebreaking implements, including explosives.

It is sheer fallacy to think that what we read of in the daily press as happening in London, cannot happen in Llandudno, Bangor, Caernarvon, or Penygroes.

Safe Transport of Money

It is not uncommon in this area to see a junior clerk, in his early " teens ", leaving or entering a bank carrying a leather money bag or a comparatively full cloth coin bag. Whilst it is assumed that such a person would not be carrying any substantial sum of money, nevertheless, he is exposed to a considerable risk of being the victim of the " snatch thief " who is satisfied with a few pounds without involving himself in the more daring type of attack on the premises of the bank itself.

The folly of such a practice speaks for itself, and I strongly deprecate such procedure.

Instances are known to the police of officials travelling regularly to small sub-branches in outlandish rural districts accompanied by, what on paper may comply with the instructions laid down, that is, the provision of a guard; when in fact the " guard " is an aged pensioner who could do little to prevent the commission of a crime, if the need arose. A typical example of this weakness in security was the bank hold-up at a Lloyd's Sub-branch at Repton, near Derby, on 2nd February, where a criminal tied up a clerk and a 68-year-old guard and stole £500.

It is realised that getting the right type of person to undertake such work is often difficult, but it is felt that more consideration should be given to the appointment of the right type of person for this kind of work.

Problems of the Sub-Branches

In some small sub-branches where, it is reasonable to assume, substantial sums of money are kept, it often appears that there is nothing at all to prevent a criminal from making good his escape with a fair sum of money. It would appear that the smaller the establishment the lesser the security precautions, consequently the greater is the opportunity for a criminal to operate.

The security that I speak of should not be confined to the precincts of the main branch office, but should stretch out to these sub-branches where the risk automatically increases by reason of the inadequacy of the buildings and the fact that there are only one or two staff members in attendance.

The individual security problems applicable to such journeys to and from sub-offices and the safeguarding of the sub-branch premises vary considerably, dependent on the type of premises used, the number of staff engaged, and the topography of the routes used between Branch and Sub-branch offices.

I would commend to you that you should make contact with senior police officers near your respective places of business and discuss this problem with them. They will be only too pleased to assist in any way that will minimize the security risk, so as to prevent the commission of crime, which is the ultimate aim of the police service.

The Part of the Police

The security and surveillance of banks is inculcated upon the mind of the police recruit at the Police Training Centres. He is taught how, by night, he should thoroughly inspect all banking premises on his beat at irregular intervals, paying particular attention to all doors and windows at the front and rear and similarly inspecting adjoining premises, especially at week-ends. He is taught to keep a watchful eye, by day, on suspicious persons loitering near banks and on anyone sitting in a vehicle parked near a bank.

When the recruit returns to his force for operational duties, his superiors will see to it that he puts into practice what he has been taught.

The prime duty of every police officer is to " protect life and property and prevent the commission of crime ". By reason of the availability of ready cash at every bank, the problem of security of banking premises is very much alive in the mind of every individual police officer.

Subsequent extracts will give Col. Williams' views on strong rooms, alarm devices, and the conduct of bank staffs while raids are in progress.

Technical Information

INFRA-RED SECURITY RAY

A new security device based on short-range infra-red rays has been developed by Burgot Rentals Ltd. It was exhibited at last month's Club Trade Fair and, though capable of being used for varying security needs, seems to have gained a good response among clubs for the protection of stock.

It has a range of 20 feet and consists of a receiver, projector and test unit to show faults. The apparatus is hidden conveniently and the working of the ray transmits a silent alarm to the police or sounds a buzzer.

The firm states that the system can be bought—cost is 20 guineas—as a ready-made kit for connection to any form of alarm. Security officers may also find it useful, it is claimed, for crime detection in offices and factories.

ALARM ON THE FARM

An " automatic midwife " alarm which a Hereford cattle breeder has designed to awaken him when his cows are calving has its application to security work!

The inventor, Mr. Cecil Watkins, of Bridge Court, Kingstone, Hereford, and the village electrician, Mr. Horace Gibbons, worked out a system in which a warning signal comes through loud and clear at his bedside when a cow begins to calve.

" It was a tricky problem because the microphone and amplifier had to be so sensitive that the sound coming through had to tell Mr. Watkins when cows were beginning to calve without picking up other farmyard noises," Mr. Gibbons has said.

The National Farmers Union believes the alarm to be revolutionary.

The Pyrene hose reel foam unit mentioned on the right

SMOKE & DYE CASH BAG

An anti-bandit bag designed to frustrate cash snatches is now available through B.E.E. Marketing Service Ltd., of Hoddesdon, Herts. It is a German device called the Robstop.

If the bag is snatched a cable locked to the wrist operates a mechanism which will either dye the contents red, or release 4,000 c. ft. of smoke, or do both. The coloured smoke will dye the thief's skin and clothes and can be detected by chemical analysis.

The company emphasises that the chemicals are harmless and that operation of the bag cannot affect the bearer or public.

NEW PROTECTIVE GRILLES

Two important additions to the Rely-a-Bell Burglar and Fire Alarm Company's range of protective grilles are now available.

The first makes use of nylon to provide a light weight, non-corrosive, hard-wearing and attractive grille specially designed for displays, shops, hotel and club bars. The main advantage claimed is that the finish will not deteriorate in coastal or industrial areas.

The second is the ' Portcullis ' roller type, so called from the strength gained from its brick bond design and use of ' H ' units with socketed ends. It is of particular use for arcades, garages, and doors.

HOSE-REEL FOAM FIRE EQUIPMENT

The Pyrene Company, Ltd., has now brought out a new fire-fighting appliance of special interest to industrial concerns and fire brigades. It is a hose-reel foam unit, the R.F.U. 1, claimed to be of revolutionary dual-purpose design.

The appliance—a steel 1½ gallon container with a branch pipe assembly—can be connected to an ordinary water hose-reel to convert it in seconds to a foam-producing unit. Thus foam or water can be delivered at need for freely-burning or highly inflammable materials.

New Address

Clarion Equipment Ltd., maker of burglar alarms, announces a change of address to :

15, Carlisle Street,
Soho Square,
London, W.1.

Telephone numbers, unchanged, are GERrard 8861/2.

SUB-POSTMASTERS SEEK GREATER SECURITY

Treasury Criticized: No Tax Allowance for Guard Dogs

THREE hundred delegates representing 23,000 members at the annual conference of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters at Portrush, Co. Antrim, on 4th May, heard the news of a Post Office robbery at Notting Hill, London (Report on page 211), soon after the president, Mr. Arthur Basen, had complained that sub-postmasters are given no extra allowance for any security measures they may take.

Mr. Basen said he had kept a guard dog for the 43 years he had been sub-postmaster at Newton Kentson, Bedford, " but," he declared, " I have not had a penny from the authorities in the way of an allowance."

Dogs Cost £1 per Week.

" The growing number of robberies is causing such a state of alarm that many of our members are now buying guard dogs, not only for their own protection but for the safety of Government money.

" We are determined to fight for recognition of the fact that the keeping of these dogs should at least be the subject of a tax allowance. They cost up to £1 a week to keep. The sub-postmaster is personally responsible for every loss through robbery unless he can satisfy the Post Office that adequate safety precautions were taken."

Mr. Basen described the Treasury's attitude towards security worries as " deplorable."

" Some inspectors of taxes refuse to allow the cost of feeding a guard dog as a reckonable expense," he said. " In one recent case, this item was disallowed despite the fact that the sub-postmistress, who lived alone, bought the dog after a break-in at her premises."

Post Offices " Easy Meat "

The delegates unanimously passed a resolution on 5th May calling on their executive to redouble efforts to obtain greater protection against robbery.

Mr. F. A. Kingaby (London), who proposed the motion, said that in the last 12 months, crimes by robbery had risen by 29 per cent. Post offices were considered " easy meat " as they did not take proper steps to protect themselves.

Sub-postmasters had to make good any damage and possibly pay part of any money stolen. In addition, if they were incapacitated through injury only the federation's benevolent fund saved them from having to rely on National Assistance. No sub-postmaster, his wife or assistant should be one penny out of pocket through trying to protect official money.

Two other London delegates, Mr. J. B. Sanders and Mr. James Lamb, who, like Mr. Kingaby, have had robberies at their premises, supported the motion.

Mr. Lamb said it was only after a year's delay that he was reimbursed for the expense of having a deputy for 11 weeks while he was in hospital after a raid.

Wages by Cheque Effect

The conference passed a resolution instructing the executive committee to make approaches to the Post Office Savings Bank with a view to the extension of its facilities. Delegates were told that figures of the Trustee Savings Bank showed a higher increase than those of the Post Office Savings Bank.

If wages were to become payable by cheque, they would need a scheme to keep depositors and there was no reason why they could not issue cheques in similar form to money orders.

Mr. E. A. Holt of Leicester (and also of the executive council), said that every time the federation made an approach to the authorities it met with " the most appalling apathy."

NEW BANDIT ALARM

London's Worst Districts Priority

The Postmaster-General, Mr. Marples, announced new security precautions for post offices on 13th May.

In answer to a Parliamentary question by Mr. M. Lipton, he said: " We have a bandit alarm which we are now extending, especially in London, because the risk of attack in the provinces is only about one-tenth of that in London. We are, therefore, equipping offices there first with a new type of bandit alarm which can be operated along the length of the counter."

Mr. Lipton asked if this applied to all London post offices.

Mr. Marples replied: " No; we are attending to the worst districts. Some districts in London are worse than others, and it is in the worst districts first that we are giving post offices the benefit of this new system."

This information was given after Mr. Marples had been asked how many actual and attempted robberies of post offices had taken place during the past year, and how much had been stolen.

The Postmaster-General replied that in 1958-59 there were 28 robberies and 29 attempted robberies. The amount stolen was £7,290.

Mr. Lipton: " Does the right hon. Gentleman agree that these figures are rather disturbing? In order to provide better protection, could not some alarm bell system be provided at all post offices to deter some of the bandits and provide a little more protection for these hardworking public servants?"

Mr. Marples answered: " I do not think that the figures themselves are alarming. The counter transactions are £5,000 million a year, and the losses have been £7,290. Even so, any loss is naturally a source of disquiet."

G.P.O. PATROLS SEEK HIGHER PAY

Patrolmen engaged on safeguarding G.P.O. buildings are seeking higher rates of pay to bring them into line with similar wages in industry.

Staff representatives making the claim have said that it was based on the results of an inquiry into the pay and conditions of members of the works security forces of 40 private firms.

The existing London G.P.O. rate is £10 3s. and the rate in the provinces is £9 14s. 6d.

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION REQUIRED

Shropshire Chief's Call for New Drive

A STRONG recommendation for new measures at national level to arouse the public to share in crime prevention has been made by the Chief Constable of Shropshire, Mr. Douglas Osmond.

He bases his advice on the success of crime prevention in his area which he claims has kept crime down to 1953 levels, and seeks fresh determination by the authorities to tackle possible crime before it is committed.

In view of the importance of Mr. Osborn's comments, given in his annual report, full extracts are published below.

Justification Appearing

There is encouraging evidence that the application of modern crime prevention techniques can be really effective. In Shropshire we can be justifiably proud of pioneering many of these techniques which are gradually being adopted to a greater or lesser degree by the majority of police forces, although there are still only a few that devote themselves so wholeheartedly to crime prevention.

Five years have now gone by since we ceased to be content with the use of policemen as mere parts of a preventive system and decided to capitalise the co-operation that the police in this country are fortunate enough to get from the public and, through the initiative, intelligence and experience of the modern individual policeman, to seek the help of the individual citizen in the fight against crime. At last justification is beginning to appear. In the past year the Shropshire crime figures have been virtually the same as for 1957. All surrounding forces, both industrial and rural, report an increase—in some cases as large as 20 to 30 per cent. By going back over the years the effect of the crime prevention activities of police and public in this county is even more noticeable.

There can be no doubt from the figures so far published that crime in England and Wales will again show a substantial increase in 1958 so that the differences between Shropshire and the rest of the country [over the five-year period] will receive even greater emphasis. There can be only one explanation—the crime prevention partnership that has been established between police and public in this county is beginning to pay dividends.

Tackle at Source

The time is indeed opportune to bring these facts to notice. There has just been announced by Her Majesty's Government a plan to tackle with greater vigour the problem of recidivism. There are to be more prisons and Borstal Institutions, a review of the Probation Service, facilities for research into the problem. These measures are generally welcomed by all, including the police, but it is disappointing that so far there has been no indication of the same determination to tackle crime *at its source* by preventing its commission rather than by treating those who have already offended. There must be a first offence even for a recidivist.

By far the greater proportion, " the grey mass ", of crime is unpremeditated and unplanned. The opportunity for crime appears and the hitherto honest man, woman or child falls victim to temptation. If the fundamentally dishonest man sees crime made easy for him he takes the chance. It has been shown in Shropshire, conclusively I submit, that the average man can be abysmally ingorant of the reasonable precautions he should take to look after his own property and of his public duty in this connection. With a proper approach he can and will put matters right and the enemy, crime, can at least be "contained ".

Determined Investigation

Much more needs to be done. The initiative has so far come from the police. There is a great need for an awakening of the public conscience in this matter and this can only be achieved by national leadership, national propaganda and positive support for police crime prevention activities. Further, police efforts hitherto have been mainly concerned with removing the opportunities for crime; there is little that the Force can do in seeking out the causes of criminality which are nurtured in the individual who offends. There is an urgent need for a determined investigation to ascertain the factors which have led to the weakening of moral fibre reflected in the inability to resist the temptation to get something for nothing.

Every year more and more criminals are being " created ". What is it that creates them? This is not a field for psychiatrists but for men with plain commonsense. Is the security against hunger, sickness, unemployment and want making us " soft "? Does the present educational system emphasise too much the cult of the individual at the expense of the personal discipline necessary to those who have to live as part of a community? These and many other social problems are not matters for the police but unless they are tackled with resolution in the near future the preventive efforts of the police can only reach half way to the objective.

DOG SECTION FOR MANCHESTER

Manchester City Police has established a dog section. Four dogs have been donated and are now in training, three at the Birmingham Police dog training school and one at Lancashire Constabulary's Hutton school. The first two are expected to begin duties this month. All of them are Alsatians.

The dogs will be used particularly in those districts in which serious disturbances and assaults are likely to occur. They will also have a considerable use in the arrest of criminals seen committing crime and in the searching of large premises in which criminals may be hiding.

Security of the Shah

The visit to London this month of the Shah of Persia necessitated special security precautions. A particular check was made on movements of Middle East visitors to Britain in view of current tensions in that area. Two armed Special Branch officers were detailed as permanent escort.

Traffic and entrance control during the Rolls-Royce Mountsorrel fire.

FIRE ENGULFS ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINE FACTORY

Strict Security Control

Heavy damage — rated provisionally at about £750,000—was caused at the Rolls-Royce aircraft engine factory at Mountsorrel, near Loughborough on 13th May.

The firm's industrial policemen implemented security control procedures and newspaper reporters and photographers were restrained from encroaching upon the site. The firm is engaged on various Government contracts, some of secret character.

The fire is believed to have started in the sheet moulding shop in a gas pipe feeding ovens. It spread to the roof and moved across the entire covering of the five-acre building, causing it to cave in and affect material beneath. The office block, of brick, escaped damage. A number of explosions were heard during the course of the blaze, possibly caused by acetylene in the welding shop. The flames could be seen for many miles and firemen were hampered by the intense smoke.

Assembly work on engines will be transferred elsewhere.

A fuller report will be published in the next issue of the Gazette.

HAWKER AIRCRAFT STORE FIRE

A midnight fire which broke out in a timber store and wood-working shop at the Kingston factory of Hawker Aircraft Ltd. on 25th March caused about £15,000 damage. It was fought by Surrey Fire Brigade and control was gained over it in an hour.

A report from Brigade Headquarters states :

The fire was discovered by a patrolling Security Guard at about 12.27 a.m. when he saw smoke rising from a timber store at the end of the machine shop. The brigade was called from Kingston at 12.30 a.m. and found the 250 ft. long building heavily smoke-logged, with flames visible through the ridge cap along about 50 feet.

Appliances were set into private hydrants near the building and two jets were got to work to prevent the spread of fire to the machine shop.

Breathing apparatus control procedure was initiated as the men entered the building. At 12.41 a.m. a message was sent to the Brigade Control to make pumps five and the Deputy Chief Officer went on to the fire. As reinforcing appliances arrived from Surbiton and Richmond additional jets were got to work. At 1.03 a.m. an informative message was sent—a building of one floor about 250×60 feet used as a carpenter's shop and timber store, about one-third alight. At 1.04 a.m. a second assistance message was sent to make pumps ten and the Chief Officer went to the fire and assumed command. Further jets were got to work as appliances arrived until finally six jets were in use, and the Stop message was sent back at 1.48 a.m.

Burning Some Time

The contents consisted of engineers' lathes, presses, stacked timber, hardboard and plywood. About one-fifth of the building and about 10 per cent. of the contents were severely damaged by fire, heat, smoke and water.

There were no unusual features noticed during the progress of the fire. It seemed apparent, however, that the fire had been burning for a considerable time and from the degree of charring and fire damage it appeared the fire had originated near ground level in the region of the south wall of the timber store.

As a definite cause could not be confirmed, "Unknown" was reported on the official Fire Report.

DIFFICULT BLAZE AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Leicestershire Fire Service faced a difficult and punishing job when fire broke out on 19th April in tar and creosote tanks at the Mountsorrel Tarred Macadam Company Ltd. works near Loughborough. It appears to have been caused by an employee using a customary lighted torch on a pipe in routine maintenance work. Dripping tar seems to have caught alight, and in turn set fire to combustible material.

The call was received at 10.5 a.m. Two pumps were dispatched with the divisional officer in charge, and they found the fire to be in a brick tower 50 feet high. It contained two cylindrical tanks holding 10,000 gallons of tar, which were positioned above two tanks of creosote where the fire had first taken hold.

In order to reach the blaze, which could not be tackled from below,

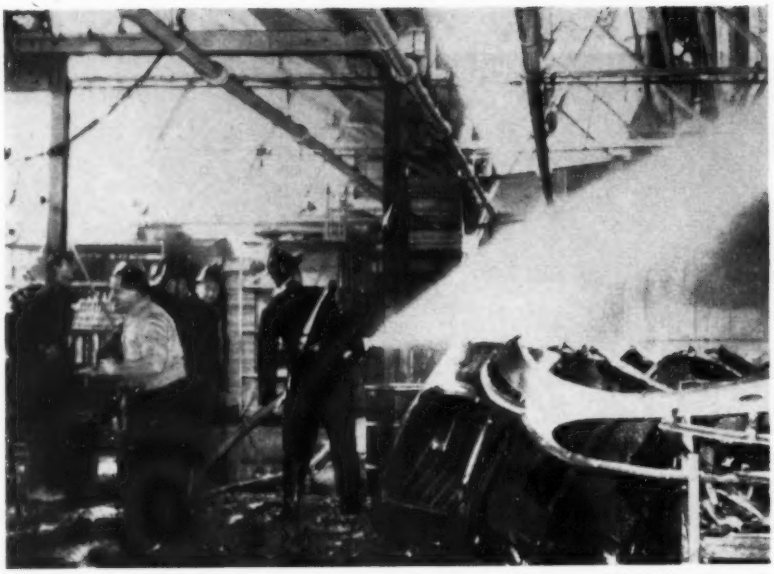
they had to first penetrate a 7 inch reinforced concrete floor before they could bring foam compound to play.

Control over the outbreak was established at 1.35 p.m., but the last appliance did not leave until 11.29 p.m. Altogether 36 firemen and seven appliances were required in the operations.

Morris Motors Workshop Fire

Sparks from an acetylene welding machine are believed to have caused the outbreak of fire which occurred in the workshop of the bodies branch of Morris Motors Ltd., Mile Lane, Coventry on 4th May. The blaze broke out at 2.15 p.m. Coventry Fire Brigade were called in and had the fire under control in 15 minutes, sending the stop order at 2.30 p.m.

Three pumps and the turntable attended, and a foam tender was also summoned. The flames attacked the wood dipping shop, and had broken through the roof when the brigade arrived. Water and foam were used to put them out. At one time they threatened to ignite tanks of inflammable liquid.



The scene in the Morris Motors bodies workshop during the fire reported on this page.

Though the roof was destroyed the damage was not so considerable as to cause any serious reduction in production.

Severe damage to Packing Store

A fire which spread with great rapidity among cartons and packing materialscaused considerable damage at the store of Joseph Lucas, Ltd.,

FIRE
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Details of the blaze at the Boston sleeper depot of British Railways.

Henry Street, Birmingham, on 20th April.

It was noticed by a store-keeper who with a fellow employee attacked the blaze with extinguishers. Within minutes the flames had spread beyond their control and the extinguishers had been emptied.

A report from Birmingham Fire Brigade states:

The first attendance of a pump escape and pump responded at 2.6 p.m. hours to 999 calls and on arrival at 2.9 p.m. hours found the whole building, including the roof, well alight. Two jets were brought into use and a message was despatched by radio to Headquarters " make pumps 5 ". A survey of the premises revealed that the fire was of considerable depth and intensity, and consequently at 2.18 p.m. hours pumps were made up to 10. Nine jets supplied from the town's mains were brought into use.

The " fire surrounded " message was despatched at 2.38 p.m., and the " stop " at 2.53 p.m.

The building was in a congested area surrounded by older types of houses.

Actual fire damage was the roof structure destroyed, the walls badly damaged by fire and heat and also 90 per cent of the contents of about 250 tons of tightly packed cardboard cartons and materials.

Training Centre Nightfire

Fire destroyed five large annexe buildings on the night of 22nd April at Ashorne Hill, near Leamington, training centre of the British Iron and Steel Federation.

Before Warwickshire County Fire Brigade appliances arrived the blaze was tackled by about 50 students, who were attending senior management courses at the centre. Helped by some of the 60 chefs, waiters and other members of the staff, the students formed bucket chains and used fire extinguishers on the blazing buildings.

The fire was brought under control within two hours. Among the one-storey buildings destroyed were two conference rooms, and rooms used for storing the federations historical records. The cause of the fire was not known.

B. R. Depot Outbreak

The British Railways' sleeper depot at Boston, Lincolnshire, was badly damaged when fire broke out on 14th April.

The cause of the outbreak is not yet known. First reports stated that stocks of sleepers had been ignited, but in fact these were not damaged, the blaze being confined to creosote tanks. Even so, it is believed that more than £100,000's worth of damage was suffered.

The works fire brigade dealt with the fire when it was discovered at 11.35 a.m., calling in Boston Fire Brigade. The Brigade sent three appliances, and Kirton Fire Brigade dispatched one. Control was established at 2.30 p.m., and the fire had been finally put out by 3.30 p.m.

The depot does not contain any system of sprinklers. Fire precautions, consisting of hydrants and extinguishers, are under the charge of the works fire brigade.

Oil Plant Damage

Serious damage was caused to heat exchangers and their supports, and to electrical equipment and wiring in a fire at the Mobil Oil Company's refinery at Coryton, Essex, on 16th April. The reason for the outbreak is unknown.

The refinery's own fire brigade immediately called in assistance when the flames were discovered by employees at 7 p.m. Essex County Fire Brigade sent 10 appliances in all, and had the fire under control by 9.30 p.m.

The heat exchange units are used in processing high octane petrol. There were no casualties.

MARCH FIRE LOSSES DECLINE

The direct cost of fire losses in March was £1,916,600, the lowest monthly figure so far in 1959. The comparative figure for January was £3,162,000 and for February, £4,353,700. The figure for March, 1958, was £3,167,000.

Of this comparatively good result, almost a half is accounted for by the Ilford stores fire which cost £900,000.

TOP MARKS

Station Officer Eric Whittaker, of Birmingham Fire Brigade, took the top position in a total of 132 candidates who sat a recent examination for association membership of the Institute of Fire Engineers.

HAND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

2: Operation and Use

By H. A. B. Shepherd, G.I. Fire E.

Fire Prevention Officer of the London Fire Brigade

This is the second of three articles on extinguishers, rightly called industry's first line of defence in fire protection. It is written to give security officers and works or office managers concise knowledge of the manner in which these appliances function.

MOST of the types of hand fire extinguishers which are available have been described in the previous article. It is proposed in this article to describe in greater detail the principles of operation of the various classes of appliance. Differing methods are, of course, employed by different manufacturers, even in relation to appliances of the same type and, although clear and concise instructions are invariably printed on the sides of fire extinguishers, it is desirable that appliances of the same type throughout a building should operate in a similar manner in order to avoid any confusion in the minds of the occupier.

The primary design of a fire extinguisher is to enable the extinguishing agent to be expelled on to a fire in an effective manner. The methods employed will be noted from the following descriptions of the types of appliance and the uses for which they are designed.

Water-type (Soda-Acid)

These extinguishers, as the name implies, are designed to discharge water under a sufficient pressure to provide an effective jet. In some cases a fixed nozzle is provided as an outlet from the canister of the appliance itself, with the result that the extinguisher has to be manipulated by the user to ensure that the jet is directed upon the seat of the fire. In others, the nozzle is attached to an outlet by a short length of flexible tubing, so that operations may be carried out whilst the extinguisher rests in a convenient position on the floor.

In both instances, the canister contains a quantity of water (usually two gallons), in which bicarbonate of soda has been dissolved in the proportion of about 7½ to 9 ounces to one gallon, and a glass phial, containing, in the case of the two-gallon extinguisher, approximately five fluid ounces of sulphuric acid, is fitted in a suitable frame inside the canister. Upon the breaking, or overturning, of the phial, a reaction takes place between the acid and the bicarbonate of soda, generating carbon-dioxide gas in sufficient quantities and under sufficient pressure to expel the whole of the weak water and soda solution through the nozzle in the form of a jet.

In some models, a hinged hammer is provided on the outside of the canister and held in position by a pin. To operate the extinguisher, the pin is withdrawn and the hammer lifted and then struck sharply against the side of the appliance. This causes the glass phial to be broken by the vibration of the frame in which it is set, and the acid to be released. In other cases a plunger is provided which projects through the top of the extinguisher; this is arranged to break the glass phial when the appliance is lifted and the head of the plunger struck gently against a wall or other hard object.

A third variant is provided by those models which are arranged to operate when the extinguisher is inverted. Here, the glass phial is provided either with a stopper which falls out readily when the extinguisher is inverted, or with a metal tube containing a lead weight which, again when the extinguisher is inverted, drops upon the glass and breaks it, thus releasing the acid.

In all types of soda-acid extinguisher, it is the carbon-dioxide gas generated by a chemical action which provides the necessary pressure to expel the extinguishing agent.

An example of CO_2 hand extinguisher operated by a squeeze trigger.

As already indicated, this category of extinguisher is designed for use on fires involving free-burning materials and should not be used in connection with any other kind of fire.

Water Type (Gas Pressure)

This type of extinguisher is filled with water and a cartridge containing an inert gas, usually carbon-dioxide, under pressure, is fitted within the canister. To actuate it, a plunger, similar to that described in connection with one of the soda-acid models, is struck, and this releases the gas from the cartridge, which, in turn, forces the water through the nozzle of the extinguisher under pressure in the form of a jet.

The appliance, like those of the soda-acid type, is designed for use on fires involving free-burning materials. It has, however, the advantage that *water alone* is used as the extinguishing agent, and it is therefore suitable for use upon delicate fabrics or valuable furnishings, which might be affected by the alkaline content of the solution used in extinguishers of the soda-acid type.

Foam Type (Chemical)

These extinguishers are provided with an inner container, containing a prepared chemical solution mixed with water, whilst a second chemical, also mixed with water, is provided in the remainder of the extinguisher. When the two solutions are intermingled, a reaction is set up resulting in the production of carbon-dioxide gas and a foam, i.e., a froth of bubbles which will flow as a liquid. The carbon-dioxide provides sufficient pressure to expel the entire foam content of the extinguisher. The reaction also results in an expansion of the combining liquids when they become foam, so that approximately eight times more foam is produced than the rated capacity of the appliance. Sixteen gallons of foam will thus be provided from a two-gallon extinguisher.

In some models, the inner container is sealed with a "gravity seal", i.e., a heavy stopper which effectively prevents spillage of the content under normal conditions, but which will fall off readily immediately the appliance is inverted. In other cases, the inner container is sealed by means of a cap which is held tightly in the closed position by a handle which projects through the canister. In that event, the extinguisher is operated by turning the handle through a part turn which raises it through a bayonet type fixture, releasing the seal, after which the appliance is inverted. In yet other models a double seal is provided whereby the operation of the handle releases seals on both the inner and outer containers.

When chemical foam extinguishers are inverted for use they should also be shaken to assist the mixing of the solutions within them.

This class of appliance is designed especially to deal with fires involving fats, oils and spirits, and the foam should, if possible, be directed, not upon the burning surface of the liquid involved, but rather against the side of the vessel in which it is contained, so that the foam will spread freely over the surface in the form of a blanket, cutting off the supply of oxygen, which is necessary to support combustion. Foam extinguishers may be used to extinguish fires involving petrol, but they should not be used on fires involving alcohol unless they employ a type of foam specially designed for that purpose.

Foam Type (Gas Pressure)

This type of extinguisher is filled with a prepared foam solution and a cartridge containing an inert gas under pressure. Upon operation the gas is released, and this, in turn, forces the foam solution through a specially designed nozzle in which air is entrained and jets impinge to break up the solution into a foam. It is to be noted that the foam is produced, not by a chemical reaction, but by mechanical means. This type of appliance is used in connection with the same kinds of fire as chemical foam extinguishers and the same "blanketing" technique is employed.

Dry Powder (Gas Expelled)

These extinguishers are filled with finely divided powders, whose nature varies according to a trade specification, together with a cartridge containing an inert gas, usually carbon-dioxide, but sometimes nitrogen, under pressure. The operation of a plunger or trigger releases the gas which, in turn, forces the powder through a nozzle specially designed to spread it over the burning substance. A control is usually provided

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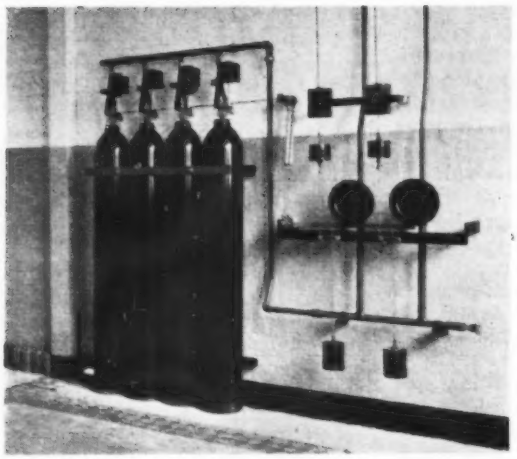


The positioning of CO_2 industrial extinguishers near electrical switchgear.

so that the discharge of powder can be regulated.

Dry powder extinguishers are principally used on fires involving fats, oils, spirits and other inflammable liquids and the main extinguishing effect is that of direct smothering although a small quantity of carbon dioxide gas is given off when the mixture is applied to heat. They are also quite suitable for use in dealing with electrical fires since the powder is a non-conductor of electricity, and can be used for fires involving free burning materials, except perhaps where the fire has penetrated to a depth which the powder cannot reach.

Carbon Tetrachloride (C.T.C.)

The most frequently encountered model of this type of extinguisher takes the form of a force pump, operated by backward and forward strokes of a plunger. The valves in the pump are so arranged that the jet is continuous and not a broken one. The extinguisher is relatively small in size and contains usually one quart of carbon tetrachloride in liquid form. For this reason, it is particularly suitable for carrying on motor vehicles of all kinds. Other models are available in which an inert gas under pressure is used for the expulsion of the liquid.

When carbon tetrachloride is directed on to a fire it vapourises, thus forming a layer of gas which is heavier than air. This layer of gas displaces the oxygen supply needed for combustion and so the fire is extinguished. Appliances of this type are intended primarily to deal with small fires involving fats, oils, or spirits and since carbon tetrachloride is a non-conductor of electricity, they are also quite suitable for fires involving " live " electrical equipment.

Carbon tetrachloride extinguishers may give useful service under certain circumstances, but they are not recommended for fires in " free burning " materials because of the difficulty of confining the vapour to the seat of the fire. Moreover, their use in confined spaces is not advisable owing to the toxic nature of carbon tetrachloride and the fumes evolved by its action on burning substances. These extinguishers should, therefore, be used only where there is plenty of air space, and the area should be well ventilated after their use.

Chlorobromomethane

This type of extinguisher employs an extinguishing agent whose effects are similar to those of carbon tetrachloride. It is used for fires of similar types to those for which carbon tetrachloride is appropriate, and similar precautions are necessary.

Carbon Dioxide (or CO_2)

The canister of this type of extinguisher is of heavy drawn steel and contains carbon dioxide maintained by pressure in a liquid state. On operation, which is usually by means of a screw valve or lever, the contents are released, evaporating into gaseous form through a nozzle which gives direction to the gas, and which is also designed to preclude the icing-up of the discharge opening as the transformation from liquid to gas takes place.

Carbon dioxide gas does not support combustion and the use of an extinguisher of this type serves to replace or dilute the air in the immediate vicinty of the fire to such a degree that the fire receives insufficient oxygen to keep burning. The appliance is suitable for fires involving fats, oils or spirits and for fires involving " live " electrical equipment. Since the medium employed is a gas it leaves no residue in its wake to occasion damage. On the other hand, it cannot effectively be used in the open air, where the gas is liable to be dispersed by the wind, except perhaps when the burning substance is contained in a vessel into which the gas can be discharged.

ARCHITECT—BRIGADE LIAISON URGED

Materials and Designs Criticized

Architects who design new buildings without regard to the risk of fire, and use materials which help the spread of flames, come in for comment by Chief Fire Officer S. B. Jowett in his annual report.

" In the construction of new buildings," says Mr. Jowett, " much good would be derived if architects would consult fire brigades with reference to means of escape from fire, and all materials to be used for partitioning, lining of ceilings, and for roofing. Far too often materials are used which assist the spread of fire and many designs are adopted without thought being given to an efficient means of escape in case of fire."

Laboratory Fire Extinguished

Scientific workers at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, Berks., were able to tackle and put out themselves with hand appliances a fire which broke out in a laboratory on 14th May.

The Atomic Energy Authority described the fire as a minor one, and stated that there was no release of radioactivity.

"It was dealt with by the occupants of the laboratory themselves and put out in a few minutes. Nobody was injured and the damage was negligible," said a spokesman.

Security Gazette

CRIME REVIEW

The most startling raid reported this month involved the ambush of a British Railways van and staff by bogus policemen. Their nerve was not matched by a gunman who attacked a branch of Barclays. Glasgow was the scene of a £30,000 bank loss. To these reports are added others representative of typical Post Office and wage day attacks and gelignite raids on safes.

POLICE IMPERSONATION ROBBERY

New Style Trick: Van and Cash Taken

BANDITS using a new and audacious variation of the idea of posing as police managed to trick nine British Railway employees into parting with their van and £1,366 in wages cash at Stratford, London, on 6th May.

The scheme involved the use of a black Wolseley car similar to those widely known as police cars.

"We will take over"

Three clerks and a cashier accompanied by an escort of a railway policeman in uniform and three labourers with a driver, had collected the cash—in silver and copper—from a bank in Stratford Broadway. They were returning to the local accounts section in Leyton Road, Stratford, at 1.50 p.m. when a black car, with two men wearing 'Metropolitan Police' uniforms in the front seats, pulled alongside with horn blowing. The 'policemen' had what seemed to be correct uniforms for patrol crews, with police mackintoshes and badges in their flat peaked caps.

The railway driver, Mr. George Hollis, was waved into the kerb. Thinking he was to be warned for some traffic offence, he stopped, and three powerfully built "plain clothes" men got out of the car and joined the two uniformed men as they walked to the railway vehicle.

One of the "plain clothes" men said: "I am a Chief Inspector of the C.I.D.—Mr. Simpson of Scotland Yard—and an armed hold-up is planned down the road. We do not want you to get involved in case there is any shooting. Get out; we will take over."

The two uniformed men got into the front of the railway van and, as the other three "plain clothes" men climbed into the back, the man who had said he was a chief inspector, and produced false identity cards, said to the uniformed railway policeman: "Your driver is in on this. Put him in the back of our car."

False Credentials

Mr. Albert Ernest Milton, aged 59, chief wages clerk, said later that when he first saw the colour of police uniforms he was not convinced. A man in civilian clothes came to the van side. "I still did not open the door as I had a bag containing £1,000 between my legs. I said, 'Where are your credentials?' The man, who was chubby faced, about 5 ft. 9 in. tall and with a dark moustache, took out a wallet and half pulled out a buff-coloured card which had 'Metropolitan Police' on it. I then opened the door and, with the bag containing the notes in my hand partly covered by my raincoat, I got out."

The man went round to the other side of the van, and then it drove off. "We were left—all nine of us—driver Hollis, three labourers, three railway clerks, the railway policeman and myself, standing by the pavement, all feeling very silly. We dialled 999."

Mr. Hollis said: "The van drove off and I realised we'd been done. I noticed the condition of the Wolseley, dirty and rusty. I said, 'This is not a copper's car.'

"The men looked every inch policemen, even down to their big feet."

The "police" car, which was left by the gang at the scene of the theft, was found to have been stolen in the Commercial Street area three days ago. The railway van was found abandoned in Heaton Place, Stratford, less than five minutes' drive from the spot.

POST OFFICE LOSSES

£2000 Stolen

A 74 year-old postmaster was attacked and bound on 4th May when two masked raiders broke into a small office at Clarendon Cross, Notting Hill, London. They stole about £2,000 in cash, stamps, and postal orders.

The postmaster, Mr. Percival Raymond McEvoy, who lives alone, was in bed. The men knocked him unconscious and took his keys to the safe. He struggled for nearly 40 minutes before freeing himself.

It is believed the raiders climbed on a stamp machine and then up a drain-pipe, forcing an upstairs front window.

Notes Grabbed

A thief snatched a handful of bank-notes from the counter of a post office in Green Lanes, Stoke Newington on 20th April.

The post office was empty of customers when the young man, aged about 25, 6ft. tall, walked in. A girl assistant was counting part of the day's taking when the man went up to her, put his hand under a glass partition and grabbed the notes which were tied with elastic bands.

The thief is believed to have escaped with about £100.

Gun Snatch

An armed robber stole about £80 at Bennett Road sub-post office, Bournemouth, on 5th May.

He produced a revolver and ordered the sub-postmaster, Mr. Leonard Bailey, to stand back and lie down. Mr. Bailey stepped back but refused to lie down. The man kicked him in the stomach, grabbed two piles of notes and ran out to a waiting van.

Over the Counter

In a second raid on the same day a man who went into a sub-post office in Crouch End Hill, Hornsey, London, asked the postmaster, Mr. James Gaffney, to weigh a parcel, then he suddenly turned away, reached over the cage, snatched a £100 bundle of notes which an assistant was counting, and fled outside to a car.

A Post Office official chased the man and noted the number of a dark blue car as it was driven off.

£30,000 BANK RAID

Skeleton Keys Used

IN a raid believed to have been carried out by an organised gang £30,000 was stolen on the night of 29th April from the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank, Shettleston Road, Glasgow. The money was in notes of £20, £5, and £1 in about equal numbers. There is no record of the serial numbers.

" False keys were used for the whole thing " declared Det.-Chief Inspector Donald Campbell of Glasgow Eastern Division after first investigations. There were no signs of forcible entry.

Three windows in the rear of the premises, all of them with grills, were intact. Three keys were necessary to open the safe, the door of which was left unlocked after the notes had been extracted.

The discovery was made by members of the staff, when they reported for duty the following morning. Employees in a bakery establishment behind the bank, who worked until 4 a.m. the next day reported that they heard nothing.

Hour Fixed

The first real clue to the timing of the robbery was given by a charwoman who entered the bank at 6.45 p.m. on the 29th. She told police that she found evidence which pointed to someone having been in the bank before she arrived.

" Certain things that should have been in one place were found in another," she said.

As a result, police have fixed the likely time of the theft between 5.30 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. A woman member of the staff who lives above the bank reported that she heard no suspicious noises during the night.

C.I.D. officers from the Eastern Division and from headquarters, including fingerprint experts from the Identification Bureau, carried out investigations.

One of the officers said the raiders need not necessarily have used a car to make their escape. The money could have been carried in a fairly large holdall or similar receptacle.

The bank has a staff of five, all of whom were in conference with detectives for four hours after the bank closed.

Previous Raids

The bank was a scene of an attempted raid in February when a man tried to snatch a bundle of notes from the counter. The teller, however, swept the money on to the floor, and the man escaped through several back courts in the vicinity.

Last year at the same bank two men threw a brick through one of the windows, seized about £200 and escaped.

BARCLAYS £2000 THEFT
A " Nervous " Gunman

On 28th April a gunman tricked his way into a Barclays Bank branch at Streatfield Road, Queensbury, Middlesex, and stole nearly £2000.

As the bank was about to close at 1 p.m., a man approached with letters he claimed were for the manager. He then forced the two cashiers at the door inside and bound and gagged them with adhesive tape. It was reported that the man took the money from one of two unlocked safes and that the other contained more than £4000. A statement from Barclays later said however that the raider left with the contents of two tills and that the safes were not touched.

Nest in Alarm

There was a curious aspect to the incident in that, when one cashier eventually managed to depress the bank alarm, the outside mechanism failed to work immediately because of a bird's nest built in the cup. When the alarm freed itself, a store manager nearby broke a window into the bank and with help released the cashiers.

The raid had the appearance of being well-planned but the cashiers said that the gunman during the few minutes he was in the bank " was shaking with fear." Police sources said they believed the bandit to be an " amateur."

HAULS IN WAGES
Car Rammed

Wages to the value of £800 were stolen in a street attack at Camden Town, London, on 1st May. A car containing two men rammed and forced onto the pavement a messenger's car. It was driven by a 28 year-old chauffeur employed by B. Goldsmith and Co., metal merchants. He was on his way back from a bank to the firm's offices in Pratt Street, St. Pancras, with wages for the firm's 50 workers.

While one bandit stayed at the wheel the second man attacked the employee and grabbed the money. Then the bandits raced off towards King's Cross.

£1000 Snatched

A bag containing £1,000 in wages was taken by a man from a woman cashier on 1st May at Covent Garden, London.

The cashier, Miss Philomena Golding, 40, was taking the money from a bank to her firm, Richard Hicks, Ltd., fruit merchants, in Dryden Street.

She was about 50 yards from her office when the bandit pushed her from behind and grabbed the money bag.

A director of the firm saw the snatch and chased the thief. Porters joined in and a lorry-driver caught a man, only to find he was not the thief.

Wages Lost in Pepper Attack

Pepper was thrown in the face of a woman wages clerk and a bag containing £1600 snatched from her when she was leaving her firm's office in London on 17th April.

Mrs. Mary Price, aged 39, was about to take the money from the offices of the British and International Addressing Co., in Charlton Street, Somers Town, St. Pancras, to the firm's city office in Aldersgate. She said afterwards that she was temporarily blinded by the pepper and did not see her assailant.

Other Pepper Cases

Two employees, a man aged 40 and a youth, were surprised by three car bandits at Holloway, London, on 9th April, and had pepper thrown in their faces. The thieves escaped with £800 in wages drawn from a bank.

The bandits sprang from a car parked outside Pitchers, Ltd., building contractors, of Ashburton Grove, Holloway, and attacked in the firm's yard.

On 1st May a young clerk, aged 17, had pepper thrown into his eyes at St. Albans just after he had left a bank. His assailant grabbed a bag containing £128 in wages and clients' money which he was taking to his firm of solicitors. He was taken to hospital.

Two women chased the thief but he got away.

£10,000 JEWEL THEFTS

London Cases

Thieves who raided the Knightsbridge home of Mr. C. Glyn Blackster during the night of 12th April escaped with jewels, furs, and silver worth about £5,000.

Mr. Glyn Blackster, who is a company director and member of Lloyd's, was yachting at Cowes for the week-end. The missing property includes valuable Chinese snuff bottles, a mink stole and cutlery.

Mrs. Blackster said later : " They got in, it appears, despite a battery of locks and devices. They ransacked the place. "

Gems of unusual design worth more than £5,000 were stolen from the home of Mr. Sam Norman, of Manor Road, Chigwell, on 30th April, while his family were watching television.

The thief took a ladder which was on the lawn to reach an upstairs window. Then he ransacked bedrooms until he found the jewellery.

GELIGNITE ATTACKS

A gelignite gang, using office carpets to muffle the blast, blew open a safe in the London Co-operative Society's dairy depot in Birkbeck Road, Leytonstone, early on 20th April and escaped with about £2000.

But in spite of their precautions the explosion roused a man living nearby who raised the alarm.

The gang forced a window and iron grille to break in.

The money had been collected by milk roundsmen during the week-end.

Safe Resists Blowing

Thieves who broke into Castlemilk Post Office, at Dougrie Drive, Castlemilk, Glasgow, during the week-end of 4th May, blew open a safe and stole a small sum of money. They failed to open a large wall safe containing thousands of pounds in cash, postal orders, and stamps.

The raiders entered the premises by breaking a window on the roof and dropping 12 feet from girders into the sorting office. On a wall, behind the small safe they blasted open, they scribbled in crayon the words : " I.R.A. All were wearing gloves. Ha Ha." Above the letters " I.R.A." was drawn a shamrock.

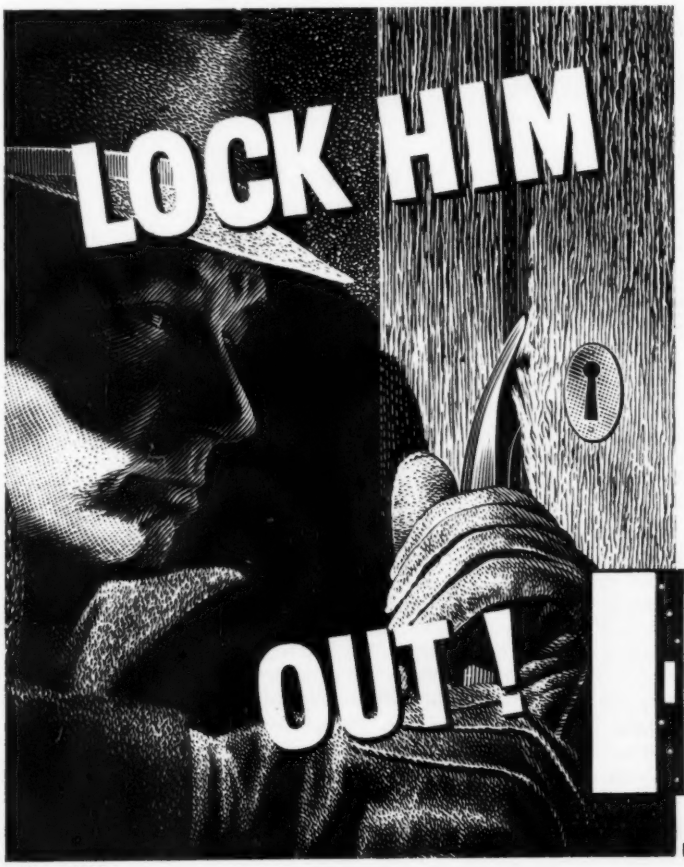
Experts opened the large safe, which had jammed when the intruders tried to blow it open. Drawers in the main office had also been forced open.

Explosion : Arrest

A man was arrested by Port Glasgow Police after about £400 had been stolen from the Plaza Cinema on 20th April. Four masked men bound the night watchman and then blew open the safe.

The noise of the explosion was heard over a wide area. Two persons dialled 999, and a young policeman on the beat ran towards the cinema.

He saw a man racing towards the railway embankment and recognised him. The three other men in the cinema escaped.



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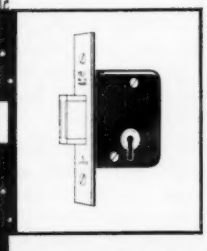

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IN PARLIAMENT

M.Ps QUESTION HOME SECRETARY

Crime and its Treatment

THOUGH there has been no new full-scale debate in Parliament on crime, members of both Houses continue to keep a close eye on developments and show unrelaxed vigilance at question time.

Captain R. A. Pilkington, M.C., Conservative Member for Poole, asked the Home Secretary last month whether he would make a statement on the trend of crime during 1958 and the extra measures being taken to combat it.

Mr. Butler replied that provisional figures for England and Wales for 1958 showed a continued increase in crime. The total number of indictable offences known to the police was 626,509, an increase of 14.8 per cent compared with 1957. Offences of breaking and entering increased by 25 per cent to 131,132; of larceny by 13 per cent to 409,388; of violence against the person by 11 per cent to 12,137; and of robbery by 29 per cent to 1,692. Sexual offences decreased by 5 per cent to 17,691. Statistics of persons found guilty of indictable offences were not yet available for the whole of 1958, but the figures for the first three-quarters of the year showed that the increase is greatest among young people aged from upwards of 14 to about 21. The White Paper on Penal Practice in a Changing Society indicated what had been and was being done to examine and develop the means of combating crime.

Captain Pilkington asked whether the Home Office had made any real analysis of the reasons for these distressing figures, which were a growing blot upon our civilisation.

Mr. Butler said there had been previous crime waves. One was in 1952, which eventually subsided, and they very much trusted that this one would do so also. He had done his best to consult all the other bodies concerned—churches, voluntary societies, schools and everybody else. " We must do our best to get into our young people's minds the right ideas about proper behaviour," said the right hon. gentleman. " It may be a hard job, and into that job may go deterrents and firmness of action."

Mr. J. Griffiths spoke of the deep concern caused by the figures. When he was at the Ministry of Education Mr. Butler encouraged local authorities to make provision for a Youth Service. Did he not agree that this Service has been starved of opportunities for service, and would he look at this matter, especially to see whether there was any positive contribution that could be made.

" Yes," replied Mr. Butler, " And it is because of that that the Minister of Labour has appointed an inquiry into the Youth Service in order to be satisfied that the upwards of £3 million spent on it has been well spent. While not wishing to pledge the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I am convinced that this is a matter of great importance to the Government and to the country."

Crimes of Violence

The Home Secretary has furnished the House with the following comparative return of indictable offences of violence against the person known to the police in England and Wales:

1938	2,721	
1952	6,997	
1953	7,083	
1954	7,506	
1955	7,884	
1956	9,307	
1957	10,960	
1958	12,137	(provisional)

Criminal Science

Mr. N. Pannell (Kirkdale) has asked the Home Secretary when he expects to receive the final report of the Department of Criminal Science at Cambridge on the study of crimes of violence in the Metropolitan Police area.

Mr. Renton, Parliamentary Secretary, who replied, said the Home Secretary hoped to receive the first section of the report during the summer and later sections as they were completed. He understood that it might not be possible for the whole report to be completed until early next year.

Mr. Pannell asked why there was such extraordinary delay over such an important matter while crimes of violence were increasing every year without any check.

Mr. Renton said that the Department of Criminal Science at Cambridge had had a number of extra tasks placed upon it, mainly in connection with the Ingleby Committee and the establishment of a new institute of criminology. There was a vast amount of research and study needed in this matter and the job was worth doing thoroughly and well.

Replying to Mr. Pannell's suggestion that corporal punishment should be reintroduced for certain kinds of violence, Mr. Renton said there was no evidence that flogging or birching had been or would be a deterrent and they had no reformative value.

Mr. Cyril Osborne said that women, especially in

the rural areas felt that some sterner punishment should be meted out to criminals. There was a " general feeling in the country " that the Home Secretary and his Department were far too soft about this matter (cries of " Rubbish ").

Mr. Renton said they must apply their minds rationally to the deterrent and the reformative value of the various kinds of sentences that could be awarded.

Safety of the Mails

The Hon. P. F. Remnant asked the Postmaster-General on 22nd April what steps he took to safeguard the mails while being carried by British Railways.

Mr. Marples replied that he was sure Mr. Remnant would not expect him to give details of the precautions taken for the safety of mails, which would be of great interest to thieves. He added: " We are naturally getting our share of attention in the present crime wave, but I can assure my hon. friend that, with British Railways, we are constantly reviewing and adapting our security arrangements with a view to deterring and catching the thieves. The number of mailbags lost is today very much less than it was some years ago, but this is not to say that we are satisfied with the position."

Mr. Remnant asked whether the Postmaster-General was aware of the anxiety and apprehension felt by the public at these continual robberies. Did his assurance, which I took to refer to traffic being conveyed over the railways, apply to other spheres of his activities ?

Mr. Marples said it applied to all spheres in the Post Office. Losses to date had been less than they had been for some considerable time. This year, mailbag losses were only 55 per cent of what they were in 1951-52 and 1952-53. It would be " absolutely stupid " if he were to give details of the precautions taken.

Mr. Hobson asked whether, in view of the excellent work of the investigating branch of the Post Office in regard to mailbag robberies some years ago and the very successful results that accrued, the Minister would consider increasing the numbers of the investigating branch.

Mr. Marples: We do not want to increase the numbers of the investigating branch. We want to increase co-operation between the Post Office and the police in general and Scotland Yard in particular, and that is what we are doing.

The Right to Prosecute

A notable amendment in the report stage of the Obscene Publications Bill was the removal of the clause providing that no proceedings should be taken under section 2 except with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The excision was made at the behest of the Government, the Attorney-General, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, holding that the right of private individuals to institute prosecutions was a fundamental principle of English criminal law. He said he had made that point very clearly to the Select Committee by memorandum but the Select Committee had come to a different conclusion.

In the course of the debate on the Select Committee's report, it had been urged that the standards of Chief Constables on these matters varied considerably and that it was highly desirable that publishers and authors should not be left in the position that a prosecution might be successful in one part of the country but not in another. The Attorney General pointed out that there was uniformity today in the administration of the law in prosecutions by the police, for every Chief Constable who thought there was a *prima facie* case for prosecution was required to report such a case to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The regulations did not impose restrictions on the right to institute a prosecution but the result had been that since 1946 there had not been one prosecution by the police for any offence connected with the publication of obscene libels which had not been instituted by the Director of Public Prosecutions or with his consent.

If the clause were not removed from the Bill, the Attorney-General feared that it would operate to impose a kind of censorship. A publisher who contemplated selling a borderline work would send it to the Director of Public Prosecutions and ask whether there would be a prosecution if he published it. The Director would thus be asked by publishers to undertake a kind of censorship. Morever, he could not advise or give consent to anyone else instituting a prosecution. It was of importance, concluded the Attorney-General, that unless good reasons could be established, private persons should not be deprived of access to the Courts.

The Opposition accepted the Government's case and the removal of the clause was agreed.

Unfounded Rumours

The Home Secretary has scotched rumours that have been circulating about disquiet in the ranks of the Metropolitan Police. They were brought to his notice by Sir W. Anstruther-Gray, who asked the Home Secretary whether he had yet inquired into the matters concerning traffic policemen of the Metropolitan force and with what result.

Mr. R. A. Butler said that he had caused inquiries to be made about a report that, following a complaint to the Commissioner of Police, a traffic policeman was reprimanded; and that as a consequence the officer's colleagues held a protest meeting and decided to adopt " blind-eye go slow " methods.

" The Commissioner informs me," added the Home Secretary, " that these statements are untrue. I regret that such wholly unfounded statements should have been made, reflecting on the conduct of officers of the Metropolitan Police."

No Reorganisation

Reorganisation of the police forces of the country is not contemplated by the Home Secretary. He was asked by Mr. Godfrey Lagden if he would consider setting up a Royal Commission to inquire into the working and control of the many existing police forces in this country. Dr. D. Johnson asked whether he would introduce legislation to revise the organisation of police forces throughout the country in accordance with modern conditions, and, in particular, to provide an increased measure of ministerial responsibility to Parliament in respect of individual grievances.

Mr. R. A. Butler replied that he did not contemplate introducing legislation designed to alter the organisation or control of police forces. He was in possession of the relevant facts, and while being ready to hear the views of Members did not consider it necessary to set up a Royal Commission to inquire into these matters.

Book Review

POLICE AND SECURITY

Police. By John Coatman. (Oxford University Press: 7s. 6d.)

THE author of this volume in the Home University series had a distinguished career in the Indian Police Service before becoming a Professor of Economic Relations at London University and then Controller of the B.B.C.'s North Region. He possesses therefore good qualifications for writing on police affairs from both a professional and public point of view, and the position in which the police now find themselves during the present crime wave offers plenty of scope for a constructive, if not controversial, approach. The outcome of Mr. Coatman's treatment is interesting, however, not so much for those aspects of general police work and procedure which he successfully reviews as for the omissions—what, without disparaging in any way a learned and objective account, might be called its defects. Interesting because they reveal the sad lack of constructive thinking and published material to which an author can turn in this country on the status, organisation, and present role of our police.

How Much Control ?

Mr. Coatman presents a detailed account of how the English forces have evolved from local origins and functions 1000 years ago through to the continued emphasis on parish officials and to the demand in the 1820s and 1830s for a more efficiently organised and centrally-aided police structure. Such stress on distant origins is perhaps rather overdone for a modern general reader but he is able to bring out the dilemma confronting both critics and reformers since Victorian days—whether to create a national force, controlled from the capital with a national system of organisation and discipline, or to retain half-and-half measures of local direction with *some* financial assistance and advice from the Home Office.

This is a problem from which a succession of Home Secretaries has shied away and which has been usually discussed above the heads of the public. Nor can Mr. Coatman himself really decide on which side to come down. By a critical description of the difficulties facing the American public in their crime battle because of the hundreds of local forces, many inefficient and corrupt, he shows the need for a modern industrial State to possess an integrated force financed and supervised from a central office. But by underlining the particular faults of the French system with its excessive concentration of power in political and Civil Service hands, he reinforces old fears of a similar structure being built up in Britain. Had he balanced his study of the French and German systems by referring to the high efficiency of the Italian police, he would have shown that centralisation does not necessarily mean a threat to public liberties or the raising of public apprehension.

The real point here is that Parliament and not police practice is the safeguard of British public rights. If our Parliamentary system were ever overthrown, the local police forces would be in no position to resist dictatorship. Conversely a Parliamentary democracy can still retain its liberty hand in hand with the law while insisting that the first aim of its professional police force is overall professional efficiency.

Interpol's Future

Of course a deciding factor in our future police organisation will be its success in tackling the crime situation which, as Mr. Coatman shows with alarming evidence, is of international as well as national significance. Here, too, the police forces are often hampered by lack of public support and by political obstacles. Interpol is an example. Mr. Coatman might have taken his survey of its growth a stage further to consideration of its immense potential value as an international force. Given proper support by Governments, Interpol can emerge as the genuine international police some sections of progressive opinion already see as the only adequate means of ensuring world security.

Character of Prevention

In the struggle to establish control over present-day crime, our own police forces are increasingly turning their attention to crime prevention. Mr. Coatman points out that " the first care of the police is to prevent the commission of crimes " which is also " the primary stage of police operations " and sees prevention " becoming as scientific a process as detection ". So it is, even if these principles are generally still in an embryo stage. This may account for the author's tendency to confuse prevention with defence. The use of fast police transport or radio which he takes as an example is a countermeasure against committed crime—not a preventive action as such.

So fast is this "science" developing that the sections given to it in the book are in a sense already out of date. Thus the author makes no reference to industrial and commercial prevention through the growth of specialized bodies such as industrial police sections or ancillary agencies. Partly this is because the nation even in the face of intensive criminal activity still lacks a sense of self-protection or security and because public recognition has still to be given on any scale to police reinforcement by security forces. That, however, will come. Indeed, the next book to be written of this type may well be entitled : " Security Forces ", with the police occupying but a part—though a major one—in it.

"THE PRESIDIO"

A Convicts' Journal

" EACH month ", says a caption to a picture in this remarkable publication, " the *Presidio* attempts to bring the outsider in for a look at the inside of a prison." The picture thus introduced, most appropriately, is of the prison courtyard, a by no means forbidding place in spite of the chain and padlock around a pillar in the foreground —glimpsed through a cunningly-cut " window " in the cover of the journal. For this is a prison rather out of the usual run, the Iowa State Penitentiary, Fort Madison, and *Presidio* is its organ, edited, printed and published for, and by, its own residents. It does its staff credit, for it is well written, well presented and topical. It is frank, unemotional and without the element of self-pity that one comes to associate with beggars of jobs who whine that no one is willing to help the ex-criminal. Indeed, one of its contributors assures his fellows that there are plenty of people prepared to help the convict to a fresh start; the difficulty is the lack of machinery to bring the two together. In his own case he went to the advertisement office

of a local newspaper, begged small-advertisement space with a frank "Ex-convict Needs Job" appeal and, to the amazement of the kindly advertisement manager, received a stack of bona fide offers.

Married "On the Strength"

Besides an editorial and comments of real quality, there are plenty of personal stories in *Presidio*, adequate social gossip from inside, articles by prisoners' wives on the lot of themselves and the children, and letters to the Editor, some from a fairly wide outside readership.

A reprint from the *Readers' Digest* tells the story of a young brother and sister who spent the first 18 and 17 years of their lives on the prison island of Maria Madre off the coast of Mexico. Their father had actually married there while serving a 27-year sentence for murdering a former fiancée. Such an experience is by no means uncommon in Latin America. Things are not quite so easy at Fort Madison and the terms seem no shorter. We read of a prisoner who specializes in bird friendships, having already served 36 years of a life sentence.

But much is done at Fort Madison to recreate and rehabilitate in preparation for freedom. The Warden, Mr. Percy A. Lainson, himself contributes a word in advance about his new programme of vocational training covering industry and agriculture. "We are also planning a reception centre," he writes, "and a classification depot for new prisoners. The incentive pay plan will be broadened."

These are familar phrases to readers of the recent White Paper foreshadowing great prison developments at home. One wonders whether the Home Secretary can be a reader of *Presidio*.

Ticket to £100

A thief escaped with nearly £100 worth of jewellery after breaking open a show-case on a crowded platform at King's Cross station on the evening of 3rd May.

Passengers waiting on No. 10 platform apparently did not notice him as he forced open the showcase and put watches and ornaments into his pockets. When he had finished he walked off the platform and handed in a platform ticket.

In the Courts

LORRY DRIVER ACCOMPLICE

Whisky Theft Sentences

Five men concerned in stealing or receiving 18 hogsheads of whisky valued at £13,000 were jailed at the Old Bailey on 23rd March.

William Bartley, 49 year-old lorry driver, of Reedworth Street, Kennington, was sentenced to four years after pleading guilty to stealing the whisky on 27th November, from a London brewery company.

Andrew Alexander Dougal, 31, of Foxbury Drive, Chelsfield, Kent, was jailed for 12 months for being an accessory after the fact.

Stanley Buttle, 31-year-old chicken farmer, of Single Street, Biggin Hill, and Arthur Wyndham Mills, 29, also a chicken farmer, of Herns Rise, St. Mary Cray, were each sentenced to 21 months. They had admitted receiving the whisky knowing it to have been stolen.

William Douglas Torode, 40 year-old editorial assistant, of Shenstone House, Aldrington Street, Streatham, was jailed for 18 months. He had pleaded guilty to receiving nine hogsheads of whisky and three radiograms, knowing them to have been stolen.

Mr. Edward Clarke, prosecuting, said 18 hogsheads were in transit by lorry from the brandy vaults at London Docks to the cellars of Watney, Coombe and Reid.

"Bartley was the lorry driver," said Mr. Clarke, "and it is now clear that Bartley arranged with his confederates that they should steal the lorry and the whisky because Christmas was coming, and he and his friends wanted a little extra money."

It was agreed that Bartley should drive to Clapham Common where he was to be tied up and that was what happened. The lorry was then driven away.

Mr. Clarke said although Bartley had been promised £1,000, he never got anything because his companions found the whisky extremely difficult to dispose of.

It was 5 p.c. "over proof" instead of 30 or 40 p.c. "under."

Three other men found guilty at the Old Bailey on 7th May of stealing the whisky were each sent to prison for two and a half years.

They were Alexander Byrson, 31, of Conisborough Crescent, Catford; Thomas Howes, 39, of Honor Oak Estate, Brockley; and Charles Collier, 37, of Lee High Road, Lewisham. George Parsons, 37, of Pemberth Road, Catford, was jailed for nine months for being an accessory.

FIVE YEARS FOR ARMED THEFT

Warner Cinema Case

Four men armed with guns who held up the manageress of the Warner Theatre, Leicester Square, W., on 15th February inside the cinema and stole £1,745, were sentenced at the Central Criminal Court on 17th April. The Case was reported in the *Gazette*, February issue.

O'Brien Fallon, aged 22, labourer, of Archway Road, Highgate, was sent to prison for five years; Michael Farrar, aged 22, doorman, of no fixed address, for four years; Kenneth Frederick Frewin, aged 18, unemployed warehouseman, of Archway Road, Highgate, N., was sent to Borstal, and Barry Swart, aged 19, unemployed, of no fixed address, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

All pleaded guilty to robbing Mrs. Edith Walters, the manageress, while armed with offensive weapons.

It was stated at Bow Street Court on 12th March that a suitcase containing £1,290 in notes was recovered from Liverpool Street station left-luggage office after the raid.

Mr N. M. Weston, for the prosecution, said at Bow Street, that when the manageress and two other employees at the theatre approached the strong room with the money, four men with revolvers seized it.

A detective-sergeant told the court that he recovered three guns from Fallon's room, and Fallon gave him directions concerning a sawn-off shotgun, loaded with a dust-shot cartridge, which he found hidden under some rubbish in a bombed site.

WAGES STREET ASSAULT SENTENCE

Admitting assaulting Miss Elizabeth McPherson on 28th February and robbing her of £343 2s. 2d., six cheques, and a money order, Patrick McGinnigle, aged 22, an unemployed labourer, of Monteith Row, Glasgow, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on 19th March at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

The assault took place in Buchan Street, near Oxford Street, while Miss McPherson was carrying the money from an office in Carlton Street to a bank.

Former Employee Raided Club

James McMahon, aged 40, a porter, of Daneville Road, S.E., was sentenced to four years' imprisonment on 15th April at the Central Criminal Court after pleading guilty to robbing a cashier, Mr. Simmonds, at Crockford's Club when armed with an imitation pistol.

Mr. John Hazan, for the prosecution, said that McMahon had been employed as a night porter at the club in 1957 and knew the money was left in a safe. He ran into the club and pointed the imitation pistol at Mr. Simmonds, who, not knowing it was a toy pistol, behaved with some courage. McMahon ran out with a bundle of notes and Mr. Simmonds rushed out after him.

McMahon got into a taxi and was being driven away when Mr. Simmonds shouted to the driver to stop. McMahon jumped out and started to run. A Foreign Office custodian, Mr. Reginald Kenny, heard the shouts and ran after McMahon. On Carlton Mews steps McMahon stumbled, fell down and knocked himself unconscious. The money was in his pockets.

At the end of the case the Judge called Mr. Simmonds and Mr. Kenny before him and told them: " I don't suppose you want to make a lot of it but you both behaved with courage and the public are indebted to people who do that."

He said he would make a gift of £5 to each of them—a purely token payment. " I dare say you would probably like to frame it. It has this advantage: you do not have to pay tax on it."

Five Years for Stabbing Constable

A youth who stabbed a Manchester policeman with a flick-knife which penetrated the officer's lung was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Manchester Crown Court on 21st April.

Mr. Justice Thesiger told Malcolm William Stanley (20), of High Street, Pendleton, Salford: " The public is getting tired of violence and the leniency with which it is treated by some courts."

Mr. W. Hodgson, prosecuting, said that after two women had seen Stanley break into a house, Police-constable Ord tried to take the knife from him and then received the stab wound.

FINE FOR RECEIVING GOODS

In a second case involving theft by employees, a Special Constable was charged at West Bromwich on 4th May with receiving 48 tins of salmon knowing them to have been stolen. He was Harold Colley, aged 50, grocer and cafe proprietor, of Harvills Hawthorn, Hill Top, West Bromwich. He was fined £5 and ordered to pay £7 10s. 11d. costs.

The salmon was stolen from a transport contractor's warehouse at Streetly by two employees, who were convicted of the theft at Aldridge, on 9th March.

One of them, Dennis John Shaw, lorry driver, of Jesse Road, Aldridge, now serving a three-month sentence, said that Colley gave him 10s. and nearly a side of bacon for a carton of salmon.

Two Denials

The prosecution alleged that Colley twice denied any transaction with Shaw.

Detective-sergeant Sutherland said that later Colley told him that Shaw had been a customer at his cafe for 12 months. Shaw had told him that drivers were occasionally allowed to dispose of damaged goods at reduced prices. Shaw offered him the damaged carton of salmon for £5 10s., which was about 12s. less than he could have bought it for from his own wholesaler.

Colley said he gave Shaw £3 10s. and a piece of bacon which he priced at £2. He had no suspicion the salmon was stolen.

Housebreaking Sentence on Actor

A film and T.V. actor aged 28, Peter David Denham, of Beaufort Gardens, Chelsea, was sent to prison for 18 months at London Sessions on 9th April after pleading guilty to two charges of breaking and entering and stealing from flats in Wilton Crescent, Belgravia, London.

He and another man were said to have stolen furs and jewellery in a £6,000 haul from the flat of Mr. Anthony Reay Mackay Geddes, managing director of the Dunlop Rubber Co., *Gazette* report, February issue, and property including cigars and cutlery from the home of Mr. George Edward Politzer.

Mr. Victor Durand, Q.C., pleading for leniency for Denham, said he had served honourably in the Merchant Navy.

A few years ago he discovered he had a very fine voice and then, without preparation and training, he became a singer and switched from the manual work of a waiter into the realms of fantasy. Denham, he said, was married to an attractive coloured girl singer.

Mr. M. Jackson Lipkin, prosecuting, said Denham made a statement in which he said that he and the other man visited the flats, the other man breaking in with Celluloid while he kept watch.

The other man used to sell the stuff to " a bloke called Joe," and gave him about £20 for a job.

He was going to get more for the one they did on February 16, but the police caught him before he was paid.

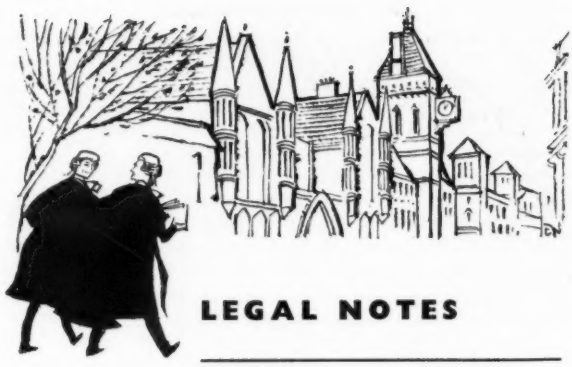
Earlier in his alleged statement, Denham said they went to the jobs together in his car.

Postman Took Pools Winnings

Post Office enquiries were said to have gone on for a year, and a large number of people came under suspicion, in the investigation of robbery of pools winnings from letters, it was said at Derby Quarter Sessions on 15th April, when a postman was charged with stealing packets.

The postman, James William Bainbridge, aged 50, of Dale Road, Derby, pleaded guilty to stealing postal packets containing £2 17s. and he asked for 39 similar offences totalling over £100 to be considered.

He was sent to prison for six months.



LEGAL NOTES

The Case for the Prosecution

By GERALD R. PALING, C.B., C.B.E.

Knowledge of how to conduct a case in Court is an important element in the training of security and police officers. This advice on approach and technique by the former Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions makes exceptionally interesting reading.

WHEN a crime is reported to the police the officer in charge of the case makes all the enquiries that he thinks are necessary and then prepares a report of all the facts and evidence to support those facts. This is placed before those in charge of the prosecution and it is only then that the young police officer begins to realise what he has omitted to do. However the purpose of this article is not to tell officers what they should do when making their enquiries, but to assist those officers who have cast upon them the duty of appearing in Court and presenting the case for the prosecution.

Know Your Papers

By far the most important thing to bear in mind is the need to read the papers. This perhaps sounds quite superfluous but I am certain that there are quite a number of prosecutors who go into Court without having read their papers. I know that this is so not only from experience but from my own observation. One of my earliest cases was given to me at a late hour for hearing the next day. It looked a simple case and I had more interesting things to do that evening than to read papers, so I left them until the next morning. I got out of bed late and perhaps was not feeling at my best. However a hasty skim through the file satisfied me that I could do the case ' on my head'. The case turned out to be not so easy as I thought and the complete mess I made of it determined me that never again would I go into Court without properly reading the papers.

Presenting Your Case

After having obtained a complete knowledge of the case the next step is to decide how to present the case to the Court. It must be presented in some order—generally the best way is the order of time, but that must depend on the circumstances of the case. Having decided on the way you want to present the case the next step is to make a note. Start your note by writing the name of the accused on the top of a sheet of paper. When in Court you as prosecutor are bound to be nervous and at tension no matter what your appearance may be. So many times is the man in the dock called ' the prisoner', ' the defendant ' and such like that you may momentarily forget his full name. Therefore if you make a practice of always writing his name at the top of your note you will always know where you can readily find it.

Having written his name write out the charge and then set out in your chosen order the facts you propose to adduce in evidence to support that charge. Finally note any legal decisions you think you will need to refer to in Court and include any to which you think the defence will refer. When noting legal decisions put down not only the name of the case but also the reference to where it can be found in the law reports and in the text books. It is very helpful to the Court if you can say that it can be found in paragraph so and so, on page so and so, of Stones Justices Manual Edition so and so. Having completed your note you are now in a position to go into Court.

Addressing the Court

When making your opening statement remember that the first essential is to speak out well and clearly. Address your remarks to the Chairman and do not fail to remember that the defendant and his advocate want to hear what you have to say. Avoid jokes as you would the plague; no person who stands in the dock can be expected to see the humorous side of the situation. Both he and the tribunal are there for a serious purpose and do not appreciate a prosecutor attempting to make jokes in Court. One knows that there are occasions when the Chairman makes an attempt at humour and no doubt you will feel it your duty to laugh, but do not attempt in any way to ' cap ' his joke for generally he will not appreciate your effort !

Take care of the language you use. Never use a long word when a short one will do. The police have a traditional vocabulary when giving evidence. A constable never goes to help anybody, he always ' proceeds to his assistance '; he never finds out, he always ' ascertains '; nobody ever goes away, they always ' abscond', etc. I make no complaint about the use of this vocabulary and Courts know what the police officer means, but that is not the language of the advocate and a police officer appearing as an advocate should be careful not to use the police language. Avoid as far as possible the use of adjectives. Facts if properly presented will appear quite clearly to the court and need no vehement underlining by you. An advocate that shows feeling in the conduct of a prosecution is quite likely to raise an opposite sentiment in favour of the accused. Avoid exaggeration and do not state facts that you cannot prove. This is not only dishonest but is bad advocacy.

Always bring out any facts in your case which are in the prisoner's favour. Not only is this right and proper but in so doing you gain the confidence of the tribunal and you do not leave the prisoner with a sense of grievance. In some cases the charge depends in the main on the evidence of one witness whose evidence is likely to be hotly disputed. In such a case it is inadvisable to open that evidence in any detail. Let

the witness tell his evidence when in the witness box. Should the witness vary his evidence from that contained in his statement your case is not necessarily lost, but if you have opened his evidence in detail you only present the advocate for the defence with material for cross-examination.

When you rise in Court do not read your opening statement. By all means have your note to hand and refer to it from time to time, but do not read a verbatim statement. Sometimes it is necessary to read documents that you propose to make exhibits. If so, see that they are ready and handy for use. It is always somewhat distressing to see an advocate shuffling through his papers trying to find a passage that he wants to read to the Court—this generally ends in the advocate becoming flustered and not finding the document.

If the facts of the case are admitted be brief. Some advocates are liable to be flustered by a cunning objection or interruption by an opponent and if you have an opponent who raises an objection it is not a bad plan immediately to sit down. This will mean that he will have to make his objection to the Court and when he has finished he will have to sit down and you can then rise and make your reply. In many cases you will find that the court will have disposed of the objection without calling upon you.

Finally learn to avoid all tricks, be they of gesture or grimace and let your motto be: " Moderation not Exaggeration " and SPEAK UP.

Examination in Chief

When examining a witness in chief a good advocate should always try to put the witness at his ease. Generally witnesses are not used to giving evidence, they are not used to attending Courts and everything seems strange to them. So be patient with your witnesses and always be good tempered with them. Some witnesses can be extremely stupid, but always remember that they are your witnesses and it is your duty to get them to tell their story and to see that all the material evidence is obtained from them. Let the witness tell his story with as few interruptions as possible. Do not go too fast, refuse to be hurried and let your questions be as short and simple as possible. Never of course cross-examine your own witness. See that the questions that you ask are relevant to the issue and in such a form as to be intelligible to the witness. Never ask two questions in one and never ask your witness the same question twice for if you do there is always the danger that his second answer may vary from his first.

Re-examination

Re-examination arises from a right to explain any matter which has occurred in cross-examination. Re-examination does not give an advocate the right to ask leading questions. Before you get up to re-examine find out what facts have been displaced or obscured and what new matter has been introduced by the cross-examination. You will then know what requires to be rearranged and explained. Remember that if the cross-examination has not effected the salient features of your case, do not re-examine. A defence advocate will sometimes cross-examine at some length. Though he may have obtained some admissions he may well not have disturbed the main structure of your case. In such a case use re-examination very sparingly if at all.

How to Cross-examine

Cross-examination is, perhaps, the most difficult part of the art of advocacy and until an officer becomes experienced in cross-examination it should be used as sparingly as possible. Listen carefully to the examination in chief of the witness you are about to cross-examine and if any of the main features of your case have been misplaced by the witness cross-examine him upon this but do not do so in any other manner than to establish your point. Do not remain too long on one matter and after having established your point, leave it. Do not persist in pressing a question upon a reluctant witness; by all means show his reluctancy because it is sometimes better to create an atmosphere of reluctancy than to obtain a grudging admission.

If at the close of his examination in chief you come to the conclusion that the witness's evidence does not materially affect your case do not ask him any questions. Bear in mind that when you have the whole you cannot have any more and therefore when you have got from a witness the answer you want, leave it, and do not try to underline it. If you try to underline an answer you may well get a qualification which destroys the value of the answer you have previously received. If you get the answer you want, it is generally advisable to leave that side of the case immediately and to ask your next question on a quite different matter. By doing this you may well prevent a witness who has realised that he has made a damaging admission from qualifying his answer.

Never put a question without having a reason for it and never cross-examine for the sake of cross-examining. Faulty cross-examination has led on a number of occasions to the destruction of an advocate's case. I well remember in a murder case some years ago a witness for the prosecution gave evidence that she had sold a knife (she identified the murder weapon as the knife) to a man on a certain date just before the day of the murder. This evidence did not affect the case for the defence for she did not, in the witness box, identify the prisoner as the man to whom she had sold the knife. However, the advocate for the defence was a young man who obviously thought it was his duty to underline the fact that the witness had not identified the prisoner, for his first question was: " Have you ever seen that man before "? pointing to the prisoner. The witness paused, looked straight at the prisoner and said: " Yes. That is the man to whom I sold the knife." No amount of further cross-examination could shake her, in fact the more she was questioned the more certain she became.

I mention this in order to illustrate the dangers of cross-examination when it is not necessary. Remember always to be in earnest and do not attempt to be amusing or try to score off a witness. I believe that you can get much more out of a witness by not appearing to be hostile for I think that cajolery gets more from a witness than severity. In other words, apply the old saying, " softly, softly, catchee monkey". Once more, never ask two questions in one!

Accomplishing Your Aim

The task of a prosecuting advocate is to establish by legal means certain facts and to show to the court that those facts amount to the offence with which the prisoner is charged. The defence may well try to draw red herrings across your path, but do not be drawn, stick to

[*Continued on page* 222

INDUSTRIAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

Birmingham Course Report

Value of Practical Demonstration

THE Association's training schemes took another step forward with the holding of Training Course No. 2 at B.S.A. Ltd.'s Armoury Road premises, Small Heath, Birmingham, last month. Information on the course was given in the March issue of the *Gazette*. In the event, it was generally agreed that the course had been extremely successful.

The full number of 30 students to which the function was limited attended. Most came of course from Industrial Police forces in the Birmingham area but one member travelled from Dowlais, near Merthyr Tydfil.

It is reported that the training was well received and that three parts of the syllabus were considered to have been of outstanding value.

The first was the demonstration of the use of Chemical Fire Extinguishers on the second day of Part A of the course. In this fires involving ordinary combustible material, oils and fats, electrical equipment, and inflammable vapours were demonstrated, and all the various types of extinguishers were handled by both the instructors and the students themselves.

Portrayal of Characters

The second was the period on the second day of Part B when the instructor, Mr. T. G. Sanders, most ably assisted by Mr. J. Fisher, gave a practical demonstration of the way an Industrial Policeman might successfully deal with varying types and characters of work people when exercising the duty to search. Mr. Fisher's character portrayal of an employee " who knows all the answers " was very realistic, and his most effective performance called for a very high degree of courtesy, diplomacy, and experience from Mr. Sanders playing the part of " the cop on the gate."

The third feature concerned the Court exercise. In this, on the second day of Part B, Mr. Sanders acted as the inexperienced and untrained witness. He was most effectively dealt with by Mr. Fisher playing the part of " Counsel for the Defence " whose questions demonstrated more clearly than any plain words could do the do's and don'ts of giving evidence in court.

Similar sessions of practical demonstrations will most certainly be included in future courses.

Structure of Syllabus

Mr. D. V. Young gave the lectures during the first and second days of Part A, 6th and 7th April, except for that on Life Saving: Artificial Respiration and Moving a Casualty, which was by Mr. S. Clarke, Divisional Superintendent, St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Mr. Young's lectures covered the following:

General Outline of duties and responsibilities of Industrial Policeman; the Factories Acts, 1937—48; What to report and how to submit a Report; Fire Prevention in Industry; Explanation and use of Ancillary Fire Appliances; Chemical Fire Extinguishers—use and maintenance.

Instruction was shared for Part B, 13th and 14th April, by Mr. Young and Mr. Sanders, Chief Security Officer, Metals Division of I.C.I.

Members of the I.P.A. course being addressed by Mr. D. V. Young.

These subjects covered:
The Industrial Policeman and the Law; Police Traffic Hand Signals; Factory Road Accidents; Mechanical Alarm System; and different aspects of crime in industry consisting of: Larceny and Fraud, the Power of Arrest and the Power of Search, Investigation of reported cases of crime, Typical cases of interest, and Evidence in Court.

Firms Sending Officers

The members were welcomed on arrival by Mr. Young as Chairman of the Industrial Police Association.

They represented the following companies:

B.S.A. Co. Ltd., Studley Road, Redditch.

The Rover Co. Ltd., Lode Lane, Solihull.

The Rover Co. Ltd., Tyseley, Birmingham.

B.S.A. Motor Cycles Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.

I.C.I. Ltd., Kynoch Works, Birmingham.

Cincinnati Milling Machines Ltd., Birmingham.

B.S.A. Guns Ltd., Shirley, Solihull.

Charles Clifford Ltd., Dog Pool Mills, Birmingham.

B.S.A. Guns Ltd., Dowlais, Glamorganshire.

Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Saltley, Birmingham.

Morris Motors Ltd., Tractor Branch, Birmingham.

Brintons Ltd., Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

The Star Aluminium Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton.

G.K.N. Research Laboratory, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton.

McKechnie Brothers, Aldridge, Staffs.

Horseley Bridge & Thomas Piggott, Tipton, Staffs.

The Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton.

Talbot Stead Tube Co. Ltd., Green Lane, Walsall.

Legal Notes. *Continued from p. 220*

your facts and disregard all side issues, for if you are drawn into discussions and arguments on them the Court and yourself tend to become befogged and you are in danger of losing your case. Keep your temper at all times. Let the defending advocate lose his if he will, but do not lose yours, for if you do you may easily lose your case.

It is not given to all to be great advocates and indeed it has been said with some justification that the greater the advocate the poorer the prosecutor. However, any one can use simple words and try to acquire pure diction. Any prosecutor can endeavour properly to arrange a speech and marshal evidence. A prosecutor does not require any great genius, but just ordinary brains and an honest straightforwardness of purpose, remembering always that the object of a prosecution is the ascertainment of the truth.

Don't trust to luck!

This charmer is poor protection against the ravages of fire or a determined burglar. But consider — **is your protection a matter of luck,** or are your fire and burglar alarms completely effective, efficient and trouble-free? Do they give an immediate and reliable warning if danger threatens your property?

If not you can profit by writing to Gents' of Leicester for details of their electric Fire and Burglar Alarms — installation of Gents' equipment may even qualify for insurance rebates. Many thousands of organisations throughout the country don't "trust to luck"— they have Gents' alarms installed.

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☐ **BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS**
☐ **WATCHMAN'S CLOCK SYSTEMS**

Tick which information is required, pin to your letterhead and send to Gent & Co. Ltd., Faraday Works, Leicester.

FIRM FINED FOR NO FIRE DRILL

A woman supervisor declared in court at Nottingham on 21st April that in the 24 years she had worked at a factory she had never been told what to do if there was a fire.

One man died in a fire (reported in the *Security Gazette*, February issue) which destroyed the three-storey factory on 11th February, and of the other 250 workers who escaped from the blazing building, some jumped from upper windows.

George Pearson and Sons Ltd., dyers and finishers, of Old Basford, Nottingham, was fined £15, with £1 3s. costs, after being found guilty of failing to ensure employees were familiar with the fire routine.

Mrs. May Dennison, in charge of 30 girls on the ground floor, said the first warning she had of the fire was from a clerk shouting: "Get out, everyone."

"No alarm bells were sounded," she said. "In all my time there I've never been given any fire drill, nor have I given my girls fire instruction."

Another supervisor, Mr. Cecil Heald, working on the second floor, said his first indication of fire was a shout of, "Get out."

Factory Precautions

Mr. R. H. Curtis, for the firm, claimed every possible precaution was taken. There were ample fire exits and extinguishers on every floor and the alarms were in prominent positions.

For technical reasons it was most difficult, he said, to stage fire drills because it would mean halting processes and possibly damaging fabric being treated.

DAMAGES AGAINST I.C.I. LTD.

Sequel to Explosion

Damages have been awarded against I.C.I. Ltd. to two workmen injured in an explosion at the company's Ardeer factory in March, 1954.

George Ferguson Lennon, aged 38, a process worker, of Stevenston, Ayrshire, who lost a leg and sustained other serious injuries as a result of the explosion, was awarded £8,800 damages by a jury sitting with Lord Guthrie in the Court of Session on 8th May.

On 7th May, John Blake, aged 32, a process worker, of Ardrossan, who was injured by the same explosion, and who sued for £6,000, was awarded £3,500 by the same jury.

I.C.I., Ltd., admitted liability in both actions, but contested them on the ground that the sums were excessive.

Mr. Lennon sued for £14,000.

The accident resulted from the bursting of a disused pipe caused, it was said, by the generation of heat through decomposition of acid refuse. The defenders were negligent in failing to render the disused plant safe.

Explosions at I.C.I. Ltd. plants in March and April this year were reported in the April *Gazette*.

Constable Injured in Foiling Raid

A Policeman was knocked unconscious by three men who had tried to blow open a safe in Tonbridge, Kent, on 4th May.

The officer, who was off duty, heard noises at the Castle Laundry in St. Mary's Road. He surprised the men and held one, but the other two ran away.

As he was leading away the man he had detained the other men jumped on him, knocking him senseless to the pavement. All three then escaped.

The men had not had time to open the safe before they were challenged. It contained only ledgers and books. The raiders left behind safe-breaking equipment and explosives.

EXHIBITION SECURITY

Special precautions are being planned to guard antiques worth thousands of pounds which will be on show at Eastbourne's Towner Art Gallery during July and August.

They include: Extra supervision of the gallery by police.

Bars in certain windows.

Smaller antiques will be placed under glass cases, and at night nearly all the exhibits will be locked away in the gallery's massive strongroom.

The exhibits are expected to include a priceless Renoir painting, several Old Masters, Nelson's letters, a watch belonging to Charles I, church plate, illuminated manuscripts and various historic furniture.

Insurance cover for the gallery—at present £20,000—will be increased.

Comment and News

C. I. D. WARNING ON SAFES

A warning to business men and shopkeepers in Dundee—where there have been many safe robberies—not to leave large amounts of money in safes has been given by the head of the city's C.I.D., Chief Detective Inspector William Fraser.

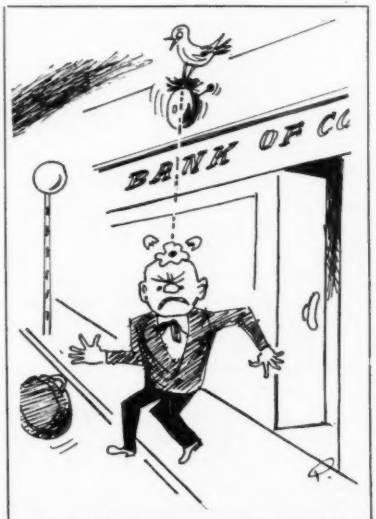
The majority of safes were old and were not as safe as people might think, he said. One had only to see a few safes which had been rifled to realise how little protection they gave. Too many shopkeepers and business people to-day kept large sums unnecessarily in safes.

He appealed to them to make more use of banks, which offered all facilities for the safe custody of money.

Attempt Fails

Burglars attempting to open a safe early on 15th April in the offices of a laundry firm in Barterholm Road, Paisley, were interrupted by a fire and left hurriedly. It was thought that paper was accidentally set on fire and the offices were badly damaged.

A crowbar and a hammer were found beside a 10 cwt. safe, which had an axe wedged in the jamb of the door. The contents of the safe were intact.



"And don't disturb me again!"

A.E.A. PLANS WERE UNCLASSIFIED

New Disposal Checks

Plans relating to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston found in a second-hand desk bought recently from a Government surplus stores dealer were not secret, a Ministry of Works official said on 8th May.

" We have confirmed that none of the plans was in the slightest degree classified for security purposes," he said.

The plans were found when a business man, Mr. Harold Boxshall, bought the desk at Wantage, Berkshire, for £2 10s.

The Atomic Energy Authority has said that the desk was among surplus goods disposed of by the Research Authority, Harwell, in March last year. " A strict control operates over documents of security importance in A.E.A. establishments. As the documents in this case are unclassified they were not subject to security control.

" Nevertheless, standing instructions lay down that surplus goods must be examined for contents before disposal. This aspect of the case is being investigated further."

Mr. Mandling, Paymaster-General said in the Commons on 12th May, that the A.E.A. was reviewing its procedures to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

Malta Sabotage Attempt

Following two previous cases of bombs being placed in the Malta Dockyard, reported in the April issue, a third incident occurred on 20th April.

An R.A.F. policeman who was on patrol with a police dog near a Valiant aircraft at the R.A.F. station at Luqa at 11 p.m. noticed that the dog was becoming restless. On investigating, he found a home-made bomb and signs that preparations had been made to place it inside the aircraft. The arrival of the patrol disturbed the intruder and the bomb was recovered intact. Malta police began investigations into what has been officially described as a " serious attempt to destroy the aircraft."

An R.A.F. statement later said: " If as a result of this or any further attempt at sabotage it should be necessary to withdraw any aircraft from Luqa, this would inevitably result in a substantial reduction in the numbers of Maltese civilians employed there."

Security Against Neo-Nazis

Two neo-Nazi organizations have been banned by the *Land* Government of North Rhine-Westphalia. They are the Federal Association of Former Internees and Victims of Denazification and the Social Welfare Association for Civil Internees.

It is stated that the organizations had 3,000 members, mostly former members of the S.S. old soldiers and gauleiters. They produced a publication with a circulation of 15,000 copies. At their meetings their members openly proclaimed themselves Nazis, and expressed confidence that Germany would find another Führer.

The Minister of the Interior for North Rhine-Westphalia said that the ban was legal, because the organizations existed for political purposes and had not held to their assurance that they were only concerned with social welfare. Their members were enemies of the constitution.

G. P. O. Presentation

Mr. Ernest Marples, Postmaster-General, presented a wallet and 20 gns. to Mr. B. Rysanek, sub postmaster of Upper Westbourne Park sub-office, North Kensington, on 22nd April, for his courage in tackling an armed hold-up man.

After a man had forced him at pistol point to hand over the contents of the till Mr. Rysanek chased him while an assistant telephoned the police. He grappled with the thief on the platform of a moving bus. The money was recovered and the police arrested the thief.

An award of five guineas has been made to the lady assistant.

Watchman Bound

Four men stole £2000 from the bakery firm of Price and Co., Mill Street, Slough, on 20th April. They bound and gagged the 32 year-old night watchman, and then took away a safe containing the money.

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The Editor also welcomes letters and contributions from readers. If typed they should be in double spacing. They should be addressed to him at the Security Gazette, 5-6 Clement's Inn, London, W.C.2.

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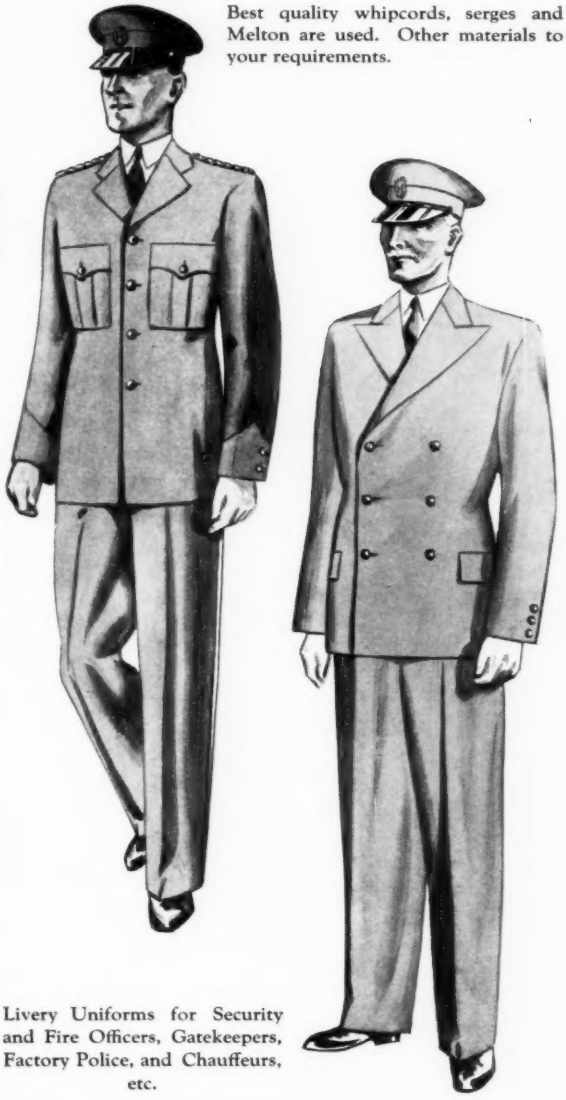

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